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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Ross, Comments on Boycott

NC1810162793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Today Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said the meeting was a good opportunity to discuss current regional developments and the Arab League's position on them.

He added that he briefed the U.S. official on the League's stance on the peace operation, referring to Arab League Resolution 5092 of 1991, which welcomed the peace process and spelled out the Arab League's decision to back the Arab countries in the talks.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that he had informed the U.S. official of the Arab League Council's resolution welcoming the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as an important step toward achieving a lasting and just peace in the Middle East that must be followed by other steps on all negotiating tracks and by the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338,and 425.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Arab countries wish to help bring about security and peace in the region and ensure the success of the negotiations. He said he hoped that a comprehensive agreement will be reached among all parties.

The Arab League secretary general said that he and Ross touched on the Arab boycott of Israel on the sidelines of their discussions today, noting that the United States is not being insistent on this matter. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the boycott must be decided upon by the Arab countries.

Dennis Ross said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid assured him during the meeting that the Arab countries want regional peace. He added that his and 'Abd-al-Majid's views on the matters discussed were close.

Official Says Gulf Common Market Faces Problems

NC1710203193 Paris AFP in English 1158 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 17 (AFP)—Wealthy Gulf Arab states are still facing problems in their attempts to create a common market although they approved the project nearly 12 years ago, according to a senior Gulf official.

'Abdullah al-Quwayz, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) assistant secretary general for economic affairs, said the 1980-1988 war between Iran and Iraq and the sharp decline in oil prices had adversely affected such attempts.

"We should not ignore other obstacles which have persisted, including the long distances between population concentrations in the region and the nature of GCC exports which necessitated strong economic ties with industrial states while inter-GCC trade has remained limited," al-Quwayz said in a study.

"Economic integration also requires that the productive bases in member states should complement rather than compete with each other. This is negatively affecting the moves towards integration."

GCC states—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—signed an economic agreement a year after they created their alliance in 1981 with the ultimate goal of setting up a common market.

The accord stipulates free movement of individuals, unifying customs tariffs on foreign imports, establishing a currency union, linking their stock markets and removing customs barriers among GCC countries.

The six members have set the year 2000 as a deadline for the common market but experts doubt it would see light on time as little progress has been made despite hundreds of rounds of negotiations.

Customs tariffs and exchange rates still widely vary, stock markets remained apart and barriers in the region persisted. Such barriers, coupled with similarity in GCC exports—mostly oil and gas—have kept trade among members below 10 percent of their total trade of around 100 billion dollars a year.

Customs unification is one of the main conditions set by the European Community to finalise a free trade zone, long sought by the GCC countries to ensure free access of their petrochemical and aluminium exports.

"There are other hurdles blocking economic integration in the GCC. They include the disparity in port fees and in standards and specifications of products in member states," al-Quwayz said in his study, carried by the official UAE news agency WAM on Sunday [17 October].

"Other obstacles include (?inside) agencies only to nationals. If all such obstacles are removed and agreements are implemented, then a GCC economic unity would become easy in future."

Palestinian Affairs

6,000 Prisoners in Israeli Jails To Be Freed

JN1910100093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 93 p 10

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—Around 6,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails are expected to be released in the next two weeks under an agreement reached between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during talks last week, Palestinian sources said Monday [18 October].

"The release could start as early as Saturday," said one of the sources, adding that General Amnon Shahak, who led an Israeli team to the talks held in the Egyptian resort of Taba last week, had given an undertaking to this effect to Nabil Sha'th, who led the Palestinian side to the meetings. [passage omitted]

According to the sources, Gen. Shahak's undertaking came in line with a pledge made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat when they met in Cairo two weeks ago.

The sources said the Taba talks also produced an Israeli agreement to allow a team of Palestinians to visit the occupied territories to assess the "security situation" there to plan for the deployment of a Palestinian force simultaneous with the scheduled beginning of Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13.

The sources could not say when the team will travel to the occupied lands.

The sources confirmed that the PLO was seeking the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, leader of the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, who is serving a life sentence in an Israeli jail, as well as other Palestinians despite the uncertainties of their support for the autonomy agreement.

Dr. Sha'th himself, addressing a conference of businessmen in Amman Monday, said the PLO was seeking the "unconditional and immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners" in Israeli jails.

Dr. Sha'th, who put the number of detainees at 13,000, said the PLO "will not settle for anything less."

The sources said it was also understood that the release of 6,000 this week or next week would be followed up by other batches subject to further discussions.

Mr. Peres and his boss Rabin said Sunday that a large number of Palestinian prisoners could be released soon. Mr. Peres noted that the reasons for keeping them prisoner for anti-resistance [as published] activities were negated by the autonomy accord.

Neither Mr. Peres nor Mr. Rabin would give any numbers of prisoners expected to be released. Mr. Peres estimated the total number of detainees at 11,000. There was no explanation for the discrepancy between the figures given by Dr. Sha'th and the Israeli foreign minister.

Reports in the Israeli press have said that 2,000 Palestinians convicted of killing or maiming Israelis will not be released. The sources here could not provide any information on these reports. [passage omitted]

'Longest-Serving' Prisoner To Be Freed

NC1910095893 Paris AFP in English 0945 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 19 (AFP)—Israel is to release Tuesday [19 October] the longest-serving Palestinian prisoner following a special request from PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, a Palestinian intermediary told AFP.

Salim Hasan al-Zurayr, a member of Fatah, 'Arafat's mainstream PLO group, has been in jail for more than 23 years, said Ahmad al-Tibi, the intermediary who has negotiated the release.

'Arafat Interviewed on Political Developments

BR1810161493 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 18 Oct 93 p 3

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Walter Veltroni; place and date not given: "The World Must Know That Without Help This Peace Is in Danger"; first three paragraphs are L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] "We call on the international community, on peace lovers, to help us to make it possible to implement the accord. But time is short; we must act quickly."

Now Yasir 'Arafat is very worried. As he spoke, his voice and facial expression revealed the fear that the prospect of peace could now be shipwrecked against the hard rocks of the critical living conditions experienced by the people in his land. 'Arafat is afraid that social desperation could be exploited against the agreement, against the prospect opened up by the accord signed in Washington. His fear concerns time. He knows that since the end of the war his people have been expecting a rapid improvement in living, working, and security conditions.

"The economic situation is very bad," 'Arafat told us. "There is no food to be had in Gaza. In the occupied territories there is now almost 60 percent unemployment. We must start exercising power, though all the infrastructures have been destroyed. We must start over from scratch. President Clinton has kept to his word. He is granting specific support. He has convened in Washington an international summit meeting for 'economic aid to the Palestinians.' I thank him for this, as I thank those who have decided to contribute. But the allocation decided on is insufficient: $2.2 billion over five years. That will not be enough even for the police alone. It will not be possible to construct an airport or a port. People must realize the extent of the destruction caused over the years. There are no telephones, the few roads that exist are in poor shape, the services are not functioning, and there are water shortages, especially in Gaza. There is a shortage of electricity, and the health and education structures are inadequate."

[Veltroni] You are telling the international community that applauded the accords a month ago that peace is not a signature, but a united effort to make it prevail over war.

['Arafat] Now much depends on the international community. We have done our part. We have taken a difficult and courageous step. Now the world must support, I mean protect, this possibility. It must enable us to advance; give us moral, political, and economic support.

[Veltroni] Are you thinking about Europe, in particular?

['Arafat] Yes. We have great hopes about Europe's role. Europe knows that what happens in the Middle East has a huge impact on the balances of the old continent.

[Veltroni] Mr. Chairman, do you fear a negative response among your people because there is a danger of peace not producing the hoped-for benefits in the short term? Are you afraid that this could be exploited by your opponents?

['Arafat] This is the main possibility for the opposition. Great potential is being established for exploiting poverty and for establishing dangerous and erroneous political stances. Erroneous ideas often flourish amid poverty and desperation.

('Arafat's tone suddenly grew sharper. He repeated a remark that he made the previous evening at dinner—an observation about which he must feel particularly strongly—ed. note)

['Arafat] There is no excuse for anyone now. Previously some countries said that they could not help the PLO because it was merely a political organization. But now, following the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority which functions as a government, there is no longer any excuse for not cooperating directly with the PLO through funding, aid, projects. And after the General Council meeting and the decision that I should preside over the national authority, how is it possible to continue as before, to pretend that nothing has happened?

[Veltroni] How do you intend to use the foreign aid?

['Arafat] I can tell you one thing. At my meeting with President Clinton in Washington I told him that Palestine could either become an inferno, like Somalia, or could—thanks to the skills and human resources that it possesses—become what we call "an economic tiger," a kind of Singapore of the Middle East.

[Veltroni] What kind of impression did Bill Clinton make on you?

['Arafat] The President is a very direct and open person. He has played an important role. That day in Washington he decided to stretch protocol in order to make it easier for me and Rabin to shake hands. And then by bringing us to the front of the platform to receive together the greetings of the American political figures. I will not forget that.

[Veltroni] Let us return to that day. I would like to know what you were thinking as you shook hands with Rabin—the prime minister of Israel, your old enemy.

['Arafat] I felt that I had kept the promise made to my people. I made that pledge in 1988 when I said that we wanted peace, the peace of the brave. It was a long journey. The most important stage was, in fact, in 1988 when at the National Council session in Algiers we accepted the UN resolution, subsequently transferred to the Geneva negotiations. Let us not forget that at that time the United States was refusing me a visa. I could not visit Washington, which is where I later signed the peace agreement between our peoples.

[Veltroni] You said that it was necessary "to meet as brave men in order to reach a brave peace agreement." Is that what happened?

['Arafat] I believe so. This accord is the beginning of that dream. The extraordinary thing is that it was not an agreement signed in a closed room. It enjoyed the involvement, I would say the guarantee, of the whole world. And the signature of two such exceptional sponsors as Russia and the United States. Moreover, millions of people saw this event live on television. It is as though the agreement also carried another signature—that of the millions of people throughout the world who joyfully welcomed the agreement between Palestinians and Israelis.

[Veltroni] Mr. Chairman, does it take more courage to take up a machine gun or to take up an olive branch?

['Arafat] In our case it was not possible to take up the olive branch without also taking up the machine gun. This is why I said in my UN speech, "with one hand I raise the olive branch as a sign of peace, and with the other the machine gun that serves to protect it." This is why I am now urging the world not to let fall that olive branch which we have grown.

[Veltroni] Somebody wrote that there is a particular reason for Rabin and 'Arafat wanting and building peace. It is because they are soldiers and know the pains of war. Is this true?

['Arafat] Definitely. You have to know what war is like, to have seen it, and experienced it. To know about the deaths and the terrible suffering involved in a conflict. To experience the devastated lives, the broken families. To appreciate those who fight bravely. And with the same courage someday you have to opt for peace. It is exactly the same courage. But it often takes even more in order to choose peace.

[Veltroni] This political courage had to come together with diplomacy. What was the path that made it possible to reach the signing in Washington?

['Arafat] It was difficult, exhausting, to overcome the deadlock in the negotiations. It took many attempts. A diplomacy composed of small steps, that involved many people. Either for political reasons or because they were revealed by the media, every effort would be interrupted at a certain point. And yet each of them was useful. We started at the academic level in Oslo. When those negotiations began to grow I insisted on an OK from Peres and Rabin. At that point it was the Israelis who adopted a positive attitude. President Clinton, Secretary of State Christopher, and a small group of aides of the American Administration were notified.

[Veltroni] How would you describe Israel now?

['Arafat] A neighbor. Since 1988 we have wanted a solution that would recognize the principle of "two peoples, two states." We have remained loyal to that.

[Veltroni] Mr. Chairman, when will you settle in Jericho?

['Arafat] At the beginning of next year.

[Veltroni] The issue of Jerusalem is still unresolved.

['Arafat] Jerusalem is part of the accord. The first step is for the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem, too, to take part in the election of the Council of the autonomous authority. We also have a responsibility to protect the Islamic and Christian holy places of Jerusalem and also the Palestinian institutions in the city. This is why at the meeting with Rabin in Cairo we agreed that the commission comprising Palestinian and Israeli representatives should start work. But Jerusalem's status must be defined by the end of the third year following the signing of the agreement.

[Veltroni] Mr. Chairman, yesterday evening I saw you receiving affectionately a Palestinian returning after 23 years in a Syrian prison. That man's problem—as with so many returning prisoners or refugees—is how to start living in Palestine again. After dinner you talked with him. Would it be indiscreet of me to ask you what hopes you gave him?

['Arafat] That man's feeling—as with everyone who is returning—is of seeing a dream come true. Their dream was to see that flag, the Palestinian flag, flying over Palestinian land. Now the problem for many of them is how to help to rebuild the Palestinian state, to establish a nation. We will help them to do so, because we need them to do it.

[Veltroni] Your life is threatened. Several conspiracies against you have been discovered recently. But it is no longer your enemies: It is those who used to be your comrades in arms.

['Arafat] I do not think that my comrades in arms are a danger to me. These threats come not from Palestinians, nor from Arabs. They are fundamentalist forces that want to go back hundreds of years. They are the danger. But also Israel's extremist forces. Let this be clear: The real opposition does not worry me. We are a people who believe in democracy. I want to tell you, however, that the Palestinian forces—the genuine ones—are opposed to the use of arms to resolve internal disputes.

[Veltroni] The agreement became possible after the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Was peace facilitated by the end of the Cold War?

['Arafat] After every major war a new international order is established. This happened after World War I, as you in Europe are well aware. The same happened after 1945. It is natural for there to be major changes again. We are now seeing the aftermath of what we could call the end of World War III, the Cold War. A great war created Yugoslavia, and the end of another great war has destroyed it. The same applies to Czechoslovakia, which was born after World War I and which died after World War III. Now new states are being established in the Baltics and in Asia. This is the new international order that is starting to take shape.

[Veltroni] Mr. Chairman, what would you tell a child born in Jericho today?

['Arafat] At last the dream can become a reality. You can live in the future as other children around the world. In freedom and security. You will be able to live in your own land, the land of peace, the holy land.

'Arafat Defends Peace Pact

BK1310101593 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 2 Oct 93 pp 25, 26

["Excerpts" of an interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by a team of TEMPO correspondents in Jakarta on 24 September]

[Text] [TEMPO] Several groups in Indonesia, especially among Muslims, disagree with the signing of the PLO-Israel peace accord. They think you have "sold" Palestine to the Jews. Your comments?

['Arafat] What do they think I am? They must remember that I am one of the mujahidins in today's Islamic world. I am a devoted Muslim who has waged jihad since I was 17 years old. Those who oppose me can ask their friends in the Arab countries, including Iran, and they will find out that the PLO and I were the ones who supported the Iranian revolution, while the Iranians did not offer anything in return to the Palestine struggle—nothing, nothing, nothing [preceding three words in English].

You must not forget that I represent the holy land of Palestine. We are responsible for all of the holy sites recognized by Muslims and Christians since the time of the Caliph Umar Ibnu Khatab. We also faithfully perform all the duties assigned to us as guardians of this holy land.

It must not be forgotten that we are the ones that have suffered most, in term of human casualties, compared to other Muslim groups. For example, as many as 72,000 Palestinians were killed or injured during the 88 days in Beirut. At that time, nobody helped us. In Tripoli, 2,000 Palestinians were killed, 127,000 injured, and 145,000 detained. These are the casualties we had to face when we waged the intifadah struggle.

Therefore, those who oppose me must remember what happened to Sultan Salahuddin al-Ayubi, who made peace with King Richard of England. Prophet Mohamed himself had to make peace with the Kuraish tribe through a pact called Hudaibiyah. At that time, the prophet's foes did not recognize Mohamed as a prophet because of the peace pact, and Mohamed accepted this fact.

[TEMPO] But Jerusalem, the city where the al-Aqsa Mosque is located, was not mentioned in the declaration you signed in Washington.

['Arafat] I am afraid my critics have forgotten the history of Islam. I have never prevented anyone from sending his troops and tanks or launching missiles to liberate Jerusalem. But when I ask for funds or political or military support, it is very likely that they will not grant my request. That was exactly what happened to Sultan Salahuddin, to the point that he exclaimed: "I need your swords, not your slogans" [preceding seven words in English]. This is an ancient saying widely known in the Islamic world. Therefore, nobody can claim that he is more of a Muslim than I am. If he does, he is not a true Muslim.

In addition, according to an agreement between Caliph 'Umar Ibnu Khatab and Bishop Sofronos of Jerusalem, we Palestinians are the guardians of the holy tomb and the most ancient church in the world. The church's key is still kept by a Muslim family now living in Jerusalem.

I still offer peace to those who oppose me, but what is certain is that nobody can prevent others from liberating an inch of the holy land, while we will always make efforts to liberate more than an inch of the holy land. [sentence as published] Otherwise, our people will always be enslaved by others.

We have struggled since 1965. Every revolution must have an end; either we win or lose. We are doing what Mahatma Gandhi did; namely, he made peace with the British colonialists. We are doing what happened between the Algerian fighters and French General de Gaulle and between Nelson Mandela and de Klerk after Mandela spent 27 years in prison. You Indonesians made peace with the Netherlands. All struggles must come to an end.

[TEMPO] So, do you have high expectations for this peace treaty?

['Arafat] This is only a preliminary step, but I believe this is the correct step toward the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestine state with Jerusalem as its capital. It is true that for now we have only liberated Gaza and Jericho.

We continue to demand the total withdrawal of Israeli troops and full Palestinian sovereignty in the two places. You must remember that Jericho is only 16 km from Jerusalem. God willing, very soon we will be able to pray in Jerusalem. In other regions, a Palestinian interim self-government [preceding four words in English] will be established, and less than three years after that, talks will be held on the eventual status of the Palestine state.

Therefore, this is only the preliminary step—not a comprehensive settlement—that all Arab countries will discuss jointly.

[TEMPO] But are you sure that Israel will comply with all the points agreed to in Oslo and signed in Washington?

['Arafat] The Israelis said the same thing about us. I fully believe in the Palestinian people, their fighters, and our children, who constitute a new generation. They will become our new generals in the future.

The Koran says strong and noble people live in the holy land. We are a nation of fighters. Do not forget that this accord was not only signed by me, but also guaranteed by the U.S. Government and witnessed by President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev was also present. I am not saying I have achieved all that I wanted. Do not forget, however, that they did not get everything they wanted, either. Negotiation always leads to compromise. Therefore, we are enlisting help from all our friends who want to see peace in Palestine to implement what was agreed to in the peace accord.

[TEMPO] What do radical groups like Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] want?

['Arafat] I welcome the emergence of opposition among the Palestinian people, but I totally reject opposition that comes from the outside. I dislike foreign interference. We are fighting to gain our freedom, and this is the national consensus. We are not willing to become a henchman for any external power, whether far or near.

We take pride in the fact that we are governed by democratic principles. According to the rules, the majority must respect the minority's views, while the minority must follow the majority's decision. I have invited all factions and organizations to take part in building the new state.

This will put the Palestine state on the political and geographical map for the first time. This is very important in the new world order, because no one can ignore or look down on the Palestinian people anymore.

[TEMPO] What kind of government do you want for the Palestinian state, and do you think all the existing religions can live together peacefully despite a recent survey that said 60 percent of Palestinians want an Islamic state?

['Arafat] First of all, you must remember that Islam is not just a slogan; Muslims put Islamic teachings into practice. Some of our people are Christians. They have rights equal to their Muslim brothers, and many of them are taking part in our struggle. There are also those among us who profess the Jewish religion; namely, the Samarach people. These people continue to consider themselves Palestinians, not Israelis. This is the noble aspect of Palestine.

[TEMPO] Does this mean that Palestine will become a secular state?

['Arafat] No. Palestine will become a country for all religions—for Jews, Christians, and Muslims. It is our duty as Muslims to protect their rights. Otherwise, we are not true Muslims. I want to stress that Palestine will

become neither a secular nor an Islamic state, but a democratic country that upholds all religions.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Opposition Front, Taba Talks

JN1910111793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Oct 93 pp 3, 22

[By Taf'at Shana'ah, AL-DUSTUR correspondent in Tunis]

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the head of the PLO's Information Department, has said that the establishment of an Islamic national front, which was recently announced, is a repetition of previous experiments such as the Rejectionist Front and the Salvation Front, all of which totally failed and collapsed.

In an initial reaction to the formation of the front, which was announced by the 10 Palestinian factions that oppose the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the new front will not last because of internal differences. Moreover, it will have no influence on the Palestinian masses inside or outside the occupied territories.

He said: We thought there were common denominators among all of the Palestinian factions so that they could take part in establishing a Palestinian authority regardless of differences in stands on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Moreover, the continuation of such steps depends on Arab and external factors and not on domestic Palestinian factors.

On the outcome of the talks held in Taba two days ago, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that substantive negotiations have not yet started as the Gaza-Jericho committee is expected to resume its meetings within a week. We believe that this committee should start its meetings by discussing the issue of detainees and deportees and end this issue as soon as possible.

The committee will also discuss the serious violations recently committed by the Israeli occupation forces in setting up settlement areas, encroaching on Palestinian property, and killing or assaulting our Palestinian brothers inside the occupied territories. 'Abd-Rabbuh said: These acts must stop because the policy of occupation and repression practiced by the Israeli authorities contradicts the spirit of the agreement that was reached.

He noted that the Palestinian delegation will include new skilled personnel from inside and outside the occupied territories in order to take part in the negotiations, which will be continuous. He said there is a need for the presence of experts and specialists in various legal, geographic, and military fields because this committee will discuss the issue of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho within four months. He added that the seriousness of the Israeli stand will be found out during the next few days in light of the Israeli proposals during the committee's opening session on Wednesday [20 October].

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinian side's preparations are continuous and that the names of the new participants will be announced in time. He reaffirmed that the Palestinian delegation will start by demanding the implementation of the steps stipulated by the agreement, that is, the arrangements for withdrawal. He said: There are many important issues for negotiation, especially the issue dealing with the area of withdrawal in the Jericho district. We believe that withdrawal should be from the entire Jericho district as defined in the map.

Moreover, the issue of passageways to Jordan and Egypt should be under Palestinian supervision. This is because the purpose of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is to establish a link between the occupied Palestinian territories and the neighboring fraternal countries.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the committee will discuss the presence of international forces under UN supervision. He said: We believe that this step is necessary in order to secure the respect of and compliance with the agreement for many political, military, and security considerations that are important to the future of the political process.

As for negotiating over the size of these forces, it should not be limited to the Israeli side. It has to include the other parties concerned.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the negotiations will proceed in unison with the negotiations of other committees, especially the committee that will discuss the arrangements for setting up a transitional authority and transferring powers to the Palestinian side in order to dissolve the civil administration, withdraw the military rule, and establish Palestinian authority all over the territories in the West Bank and Gaza. These two committees are primarily concerned with completing the basic and general points in the agreement we have reached.

'Abd-Rabbuh said contacts are still under way with the brothers in Jordan and Egypt in order to define the work of the Arab committee with Jordan and Egypt to discuss the issue of the displaced and the central question of their return and their arrangements for return.

He expressed hope that these committees, in addition to the economic committee, will meet in the next few weeks so that steps to implement the agreement will go hand in hand. He also said that a comprehensive agreement will be reached on all steps and in all fields at the same time.

On the question of refugees, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We do not find it strange to see obstacles by the Israeli side. We know quite well that Israel does not want a single refugee to return to his homeland. However, the agreement does not satisfy this desire. We should unify Palestinian and Arab efforts to make Israel comply with the agreement, especially since the agreement now enjoys wide- ranging international support.

He added that the right of the refugees and the displaced to return to their homeland is indisputable, and is part of

a comprehensive process. Any reluctance or lack of enthusiasm about this question will serve Israel's attempts to marginalize it.

On the difference between the substance of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the statements of Israeli rulers and facts on the ground, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The Israeli position is well known. In the past, they refused to recognize the PLO and to allow the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and refused to withdraw. Even days before the agreement was signed, the Israeli leadership maintained that it would have nothing to do with the PLO. There are now new facts, and what is important is to seize the current opportunity to establish our rights on our territory. When a national Palestinian authority is set up, then the Palestinian people will be able to struggle for the rest of their rights as stipulated by international laws.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the threats issued recently by some Palestinian factions against the PLO leadership are worthless. Many voices have warned of the dangers of the agreement, especially Israel's attempts to neglect the implementation of Resolution 242 and create a rift between the PLO and its Arab brothers. We appreciate these opposing views and think they are entitled to their opposition.

Despite attempts to distort facts and cause harm, we are concerned about a unified stance, especially with Syria and Lebanon, as well as coordination with Jordan in security and economy. We think that the opposition has a positive role to play in pointing out any future threats.

On the PLO's relationship with Iraq, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: We keep Iraq informed of various developments in the Palestine question, as we do with all Arab brothers. This is natural, especially in light of Iraq's role and location in the region and out of our principles of coordination and keeping the Arab brothers informed of all the details of our cause.

Comments on Autonomy, Ties With Arabs

PM1510095993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Oct 93 p6

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qulaybi] How do you view the next phase as far as implementation of the agreement is concerned?

['Abd-Rabbuh] First of all, the agreement is an integral whole. There are two main targets specified in the agreement. The first is full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho with the national authority taking over in these two areas. By the national authority we mean the PLO, which has been officially recognized by Israel. The second is redeployment of the Israeli forces in the rest of the West Bank with the national authority, which will have offices and headquarters in Gaza and Jericho, gradually taking over responsibility for all duties and institutions in the rest of the West Bank and Gaza in the context of the geographical unity of these territories and full Palestinian jurisdiction over them.

Furthermore, the assumption of responsibility for the crossing routes between the West Bank and Gaza on the one hand and Jordan and Egypt on the other will be a major test of the seriousness of the Israelis, because we cannot possibly agree to the Palestinian entity becoming a canton surrounded by Israel and isolated from the Arab world. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qulaybi] Are we to understand that there are still some problems and difficulties standing in the way of implementation of the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

['Abd-Rabbuh] As the negotiations start we will find out what mentality the Israelis will bring. Will it be the mentality of someone looking for small gains to empty the agreement of its substance and cancel out the clear provisions in it by seeking to impose some measures and restrictions on the ground, or will the Israelis come with an open mind and abandonment of the arrogance of occupation.

We are not confident. That is because of our experience of long decades of deportation, terrorization, mass killing, detentions, settlement, and denial. [passage omitted]

What is required of the Israelis is not much courage but a little realism so that we may achieve balanced solutions in the shortest possible time and by direct means. The Washington agreement is perfectly clear. Every step under the agreement must lead to the dismantling of the occupation's institutions and organs and must gradually lead to full withdrawal. That is the essence of the Washington agreement.

[Al-Qulaybi] This means that the secret Oslo negotiations and what happened when the agreement was signed in Washington have not eliminated the crisis of trust between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Jerusalem is still isolated, and tens of thousands of detainees and deportees are away from the homes and families. The Israeli Government does not need more than one decision to end Jerusalem's isolation, repatriate the deportees, and release the detainees. Public opinion on both sides would welcome such a step and see it as evidence of Israeli seriousness before we really get started.

[Al-Qulaybi] Have you received any promises that Israel would take such steps after the signing of the agreement? And what about the U.S. position regarding such steps?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Washington fully understands and appreciates the need for such steps. I can say that some Israeli leaders realize that the Palestinian, Arab, and even Israeli public opinions still see the agreement as a mere piece of paper and want to test the credibility of the signed agreement through measures on the ground.

Some of the messages exchanged between us and the Israelis through the Norwegian mediator—which became part of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement's documents—speak of gradual steps to restore normal life. We have discussed this matter with several U.S. and Israeli officials not as an issue for negotiation but as necessary steps before the negotiations to create a positive atmosphere for the negotiations. We expect such steps in the coming days and weeks.

[Al-Qulaybi] Yet Yasir 'Arafat has recently issued a statement calling for an end to armed action in the occupied territory.

['Abd-Rabbuh] The statement was clear. 'Arafat did not call for an end to armed action. He urged the Palestinian people to participate in the steps leading to the normalization of life. Both sides, not just one, have to take steps but the Israelis, as the occupying party, should take most of these steps. Understanding on that was reached during the Oslo contacts.

[Al-Qulaybi] Could one say that the fate of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement depends on the success of the Palestinians in running Gaza and Jericho?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We are now studying the necessary practical measures to ensure a peaceful and orderly assumption by the national authority of its responsibilities, first in Gaza and Jericho and then in the rest of the territories to pave the way for the elections which must take place in July 1994 under the sole control of Palestinian security with UN participation as stated in the agreement. [passage omitted]

It will not be Israel but rather our people who will primarily test the effectiveness, democracy, and standard of the Palestinian authority. Israel will not be the one to put us to the test, rather we and the whole world will put Israel to the real test because it should stop all interference in Palestinian affairs, end its occupation, and respect the will of the Palestinian people and their institutions and the role of these institutions in determining their political and economic future through basic links with their Arab world.

Palestine will be an Arab state that will contribute to the creation of an Arab common market and the elimination of the artificial barriers separating the Arab countries. It will work for reapprochement among the Arab states away from conflicts and secondary disputes.

The Gulf war lesson taught us not to take sides with one Arab country against another and to respect the independence of every country and the common interests and fraternal links. That is why we say to those who ask us to apologize [for our position taken during the Iraq-Kuwait Gulf war] that our position now goes much further than simple apology, a position of self-accountability that does not consider the admission of mistakes to be demeaning, especially not with brothers.

We really want to turn over a new leaf with the brothers and we do want to cooperate with all the Arab states, particularly the brothers in the Gulf. We say that the mistakes we made three years ago do not justify continuation of estrangement. The future is much more important, and the future will show that we are serious about what we say. [passage omitted]

'Abbas on Accord Opponents, Aid, Arab Ties

PM1810120093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, by Mazin al-Saghir in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Saghir] Some people accuse the Palestinian leadership of monopolizing the Central Council, in the absence of the real opposition. They also say that the Central Council was more or less one color. What is your opinion?

['Abbas] It would be more correct to say that it was the opposition which you call "real" which isolated itself, refused to participate in the council, and chose to exercise its position and role from elsewhere...

We invited them in accordance with their constitutional right, but they refused to attend, although they knew that the council is legitimate and is the strongest expression of the PLO. They also cannot have forgotten that they participated in its formation and approved of it as a main authority in the National Council's absence...

Nevertheless, their presence was necessary and it would have been influential and effective. Figures and factions adopting a position opposed to the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement attended and participated in the council meeting and proceedings. These figures and factions expressed their rejection of the agreement but at the same time emphasized their loyalty to the PLO. This is what everyone should emphasize by deed, not word, through commitment to the institutions in whose creation everyone participated.

The recent council meeting was not just one color. However, it would have been richer if all had participated in it.

[Al-Saghir] Moderate opposition to the agreement says that its clauses are vague, and [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad said that every point in the agreement needs an agreement...

['Abbas] Let us replace the word vague with a more accurate word. Let us say that they are general points or principles. This is what usually distinguishes a declaration of principles agreement from a detailed or final agreement. True, every clause requires a battle to interpret it first, and, second, to find ways of implementing it. The same applies to the timing of the implementation. We have not dealt, nor will we deal, with the agreement

as generally accepted axioms. We are currently negotiating through several committees over every word in it. But let me make a comment in this connection concerning the stipulations: We have obtained from the Israelis things they had regarded as forbidden and impossible, first and foremost their recognition of the Palestinian people's existence. Second, recognition of this people's right to their territory. This is in addition to recognizing the principle that anything is negotiable in due course, whereas in the past there were matters to which this principle did not apply, like Jerusalem, the refugees, and other issues.

We should also look from a new angle at Israel's willingness to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho first, and I stress the word first, because it is the wide door that leads us to a comprehensive withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967. [passage omitted]

[Al-Saghir] Do you not sense the danger of Israel's noncompliance with or nonresponse to your understanding of the agreement's clauses, like, for example, the number of the 1967 refugees, and what guarantees do you have in this connection?

['Abbas] As I said, there is an arduous and complicated negotiation process between us and Israel as regards our respective understanding of the agreement and ways of implementing it. But this is the truth about political action; one should not expect an automatic course for any clause or interpretation. We must work hard, without despairing, to consolidate our understanding of the agreement, because they are more realistic and more committed to the international authorities and the foundations of the peace process. [passage omitted]

[Al-Saghir] We heard president Yasir 'Arafat say on more than one occasion that he will not be another Gorbachev. Are you really concerned about the international community's lack of commitment to the aid proposed to build the Palestinian entity and develop the region?

['Abbas] We should indeed expect all possibilities, including the possibility of a lack of punctiliousness in international commitment to the economic aid issue. However, I do not see any cause for concern in this connection. Because the world, which helped us a lot to reach the beginning of a solution, did this not for purely ethical motives, but in accordance with a view of the present and future of our region, which is of utmost importance with regard to international interests. Thus anyone who is seeking firm stability in the Middle East should provide the material as well as political constituents for this stability. My reading of the world's movement toward the Middle East inspires optimism, not pessimism. [passage omitted]

[Al-Saghir] How would you describe your relations with Syria and Jordan?

['Abbas] Relations with Syria are not normal—which is regrettable. The Syrian brothers are expressing strong indignation at us for what they call achieving a solution behind their back.

I tell our Syrian brothers that what has been achieved is not a solution. It is, as President al-Asad himself said, an agreement which needs many agreements to complete it. Thus, in the light of my awareness of the importance of the Syrian position, I urge our brothers in Damascus to understand our working program. We are committed to an Arab solution on all the negotiation tracks. This commitment cannot be shaken by an initial agreement which represents a step on a long road. We support the Syrian position in the negotiations and are looking forward to the day when our Syrian brothers sign an honorable agreement with Israel. That will be tantamount to bolstering our efforts toward the agreement which has not yet been reached with regard to the final solution.

I am certain that there can be no real and lasting peace in our region without achieving a comprehensive solution for all the tracks, based completely on international legitimacy as an authority and implementing fully and accurately Resolutions 242 and 338 and all the other international resolutions, that is, withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967. This conviction is not affected by an initial step toward a solution on the Palestinian track; our brothers in Syria know that.

As for relations with Jordan, they are good, and in coming days we will see further coordination with our Jordanian brothers and partners through all the channels open between us.

Our brothers in Jordan—through the important meeting held recently between brother Yasir 'Arafat and His Majesty King Husayn—showed responsible understanding of what has been achieved and also offered a responsible view of the future of brotherly relations. And there are no differences of view, but we need to work more to tackle the details—which we are doing now and will continue to do together.

'Ashrawi Comments on Talks With U.S. Official

TA1810162293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Oct 93 p 4

[By Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that there will be a delay in the date proposed for convening the upcoming round of talks due to certain reasons and in order to achieve progress on the Syrian track. She added that the next date for the talks might be the end of November as there is no agreement on a fixed date.

'Ashrawi's remarks came following a meeting held yesterday at Orient House, the Palestinian negotiating delegation's headquarters, between Dan Kurtzer, deputy to the coordinator of the peace process at the White House,

and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the delegation, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's spokesperson. The two sides discussed many important issues at this meeting, which lasted two hours.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said: We reviewed the developments of the past two weeks and also discussed the Taba and Cairo talks and U.S.-PLO relations. Moreover, we dwelt on the upcoming negotiations, the contacts held in Washington over economic issues, and ways of pursuing those contacts in the future.

Dr. 'Ashrawi affirmed the Palestinian side's commitment to a comprehensive solution within a framework that includes all tracks, including the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Jordanian, as well as to the achievement of real and tangible progress on the Syrian track.

'Ashrawi noted that the Palestinians will discuss with Dennis Ross the steps that have to be implemented on the Palestinian-Israeli track and the urgent need to speed up those steps. They will also discuss enhancement of U.S.-PLO relations, U.S. recognition of the PLO and renewal of dialogue with it, and a comprehensive settlement on the other tracks.

On the nature of the meeting at Orient House, 'Ashrawi said: We reviewed with Dan Kurtzer numerous issues that were discussed with him during his recent visit to Tunis, including Dennis Ross' Middle East tour.

On the form of the upcoming negotiations, 'Ashrawi said: There will be genuine representation in view of the participation of PLO members and Palestinians from the diaspora in those negotiations, in addition to a group of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

'Ashrawi pointed out that the working groups will be formed on the basis of expertise, competence, and qualifications since now there is a point of reference—the agreement—and a declaration of principles.

'Ashrawi stressed that the Palestinian delegation raised the issue of the detainees in a clear manner, bearing in mind that this issue has been transferred from the bilateral negotiations to the Gaza-Jericho talks and a special committee has been set up to resolve this important problem quickly.

Bal'awi on 10 Factions' Political Statement

JN1810201993 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 93

["Text" of statement by Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO representative in Tunisia, on the "so-called political statement issued by the meetings of the groups calling themselves the 10 factions, held recently in Damascus;" date not given]

[Text] We note with regret the insistence by certain Palestinian forces to continue their deviation from the ranks of the Palestinian homeland, which, at this critical phase, needs the efforts of all its children. We also regret these forces' insistence on going too far in their miscalculations, and, thus, placing themselves in the sphere of illusions and tarnishing our people's struggle and great sacrifices.

Our regret stems from the national responsibility that dictates that these forces should avoid the serious abyss, which they might fall into in their absurdity and deception. It is also based on our concern for the democratic practices that governed our people's militant march as firm principles and foundations throughout this difficult march, replete with sacrifices. It is also based on our respect for, and adherence to the principles and norms of this democracy that reinforce the legitimate opposition with the national frameworks and institutions.

We stress that our people, the grandest master, are able to foil all schemes and prevent political absurdity from standing against their national objectives.

The direction which the statement took under the pretext of concern of the national position contradicts nationalism, strikes at its heart, infringes on it, and exposes the intentions that have produced political immaturity, nihilism, and the absurd course. This is something our people will not allow to continue.

Our people assert that our established democratic choice is the guarantee for victory and the establishment of the homeland and the independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem its capital, as the program for action and conduct. It is a permanent choice for the PLO, which embodies the independent national decisionmaking of our Palestinian people and their free will, and which is concerned for keeping democracy the sacred fortress and a commitment to accomplishment. It will not allow outside influences to harm our people's profound awareness and understanding of national responsibility.

Hamas Official Lauds Syrian Stand, Attacks Accord

JN1610105293 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Oct (SANA)—Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Hamas Movement in Jordan, has lauded Syria's stand on Palestine question, noting that this stand will reinforce the national Palestinian position. In a statement to TISHRIN published today, Nazzal said that the Gaza-Jericho accord is a threat to the Palestine question. The accord, he added, will turn Gaza and Jericho into a bridge into the Arab and Islamic region for the Israelis and to threaten the entire Arab nation.

Nazzal cast aspersions on the PLO Central Council's approval of the accord, saying that the PLO institutions are dictatorial. He added that these results were expected because 'Arafat brought in large number of people from inside the occupied territory to obtain the required percentage.

Nazzal stressed that the intifadah against the occupation will continue, noting that there is a great concern for

developing and renewing its means so that it will remain a symbol of popular protest against the occupation and the agreement aimed against the entire Arab nation.

DFLP Claims Attack on Israeli Patrol, Gaza Execution

JN1910065993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has claimed responsibility for throwing a hand grenade at an Israeli patrol in Nabulus. A number of the occupation army soldiers were wounded in the attack. This came in a statement distributed in Damascus.

The DFLP statement adds that a group of the al-Najm al-Ahmar [Red Star], the armed wing of the DFLP in the occupied territory, executed Mahmud Darduni in Khan Yunus, in occupied Gaza, yesterday for his collaboration with the occupation forces.

Algeria

'Militants' Kill 2 Russian Military Advisers

NC1910085693 Paris AFP in English 0831 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Algiers, Oct 19 (AFP)—Two Russian military advisers were assassinated by armed Islamic militants in northern Algeria last weekend, the Russian Embassy said here Tuesday.

It said Lieutenant Colonels Vladimir Valezhniy and Aleksandr Orlov, both aged 40, were gunned down in Laghouat, 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of here.

The two victims were teaching at the local aviation school under an Algerian-Russian cooperation program.

Television Journalist Assassinated 18 Oct

LD1810110693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The security authorities announced today that the journalist Ismail Yifsah of the National Television Enterprise was assassinated today at 0830 near his home in Bab-Ezzouar [suburb of Algiers].

Ali Kafi on Independence of Dialogue Committee

LD1710140393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] At a meeting that brought members of the National Dialogue Committee together with the chairman of the Higher State Council [HCE] yesterday at the presidential palace, the committee members asked the HCE chairman many questions about details of the various phases of the dialogue.

HCE Chairman Ali Kafi briefed the committee members on the various phases of the dialogue and stressed its importance as a means of getting the country out of crisis. He said that the HCE has not put any obstacles in the way of reaching the desired results by dialogue. He stressed that the committee will enjoy absolute freedom and independence in its work.

Delegate Addresses UN on Western Sahara

LD1510152293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] During his address to the sixth UN commission on legal matters, which was debating the phenomenon of terrorism, Ramadan Lamamra, the Algerian UN permanent delegate, indicated that the phenomenon has spread dangerously and has reached its peak. The time has come for pooling all efforts and capabilities together to tackle this phenomenon, he said. Algeria's UN delegate also talked about the issue of Western Sahara and Algeria's stance regarding it, in addition to Algeria's firm stances vis-a-vis issues of liberation and decolonization. For more details, let us listen to our colleague Wahiba Ben-Chihab:

[Ben-Chihab] During his address to the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, Algerian UN permanent delegate Ramadan Lamamra indicated that the phenomenon of international terrorism, which has become dangerously rampant, has made it difficult to implement the fundamental principles of the United Nations, which are characterized by bolstering friendly relations between nations, good neighborliness, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, and respect for the sovereignty of states.

Algeria's UN delegate stated that all efforts should be consolidated to contain the phenomenon of international terrorism in light of previous international experiences.

Regarding the issue of decolonization and peoples' right to self- determination, Lamamra emphasized Algeria's firm stance vis-a-vis peoples' right to independence and sovereignty and its commitment to the principle of noninterference in the affairs of countries and the establishment of relations of cooperation between neighbors.

When dealing with the issue of Western Sahara, Lamamra highlighted that Algeria considered the recent negotiations at Laayoune between Polisario Front and Moroccan representatives as a positive step. He stressed that the issue of the Western Sahara falls within the scope of decolonization. Therefore, all UN bodies should help achieve the sovereignty of the Saharan people on its land, he concluded.

Foreign Minister Views Talks With EC, Belgium

LD1410221593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Excerpts] During his visit of the past two days to the Belgian capital, Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri made diplomatic moves, discussed Algeria's large debt with the EC, and began negotiations regarding this and other issues. Here is a report by Fatima Elzehra Mezrag:

[Begin Mezrag recording] During his visit to Belgium, Mohamed Salah Dembri, chief Algerian diplomat, made it clear that Algeria was ready to open official talks with the EEC to establish a European-Algerian partnership, which would gradually develop into a free trade zone that would take into account the interests and characteristics of both sides. These talks, according to Mohamed Salah Dembri, will continue over a comparatively long period—15 years on average.

On the other hand, the visit obtained guarantees from the EEC and Belgium to grant assistance to Algeria to bolster the process of economic reforms. Currently there is talk about the possibility of granting the second installment of 150 million ECU's from the fourth financial protocol between the EEC and Algeria, and also the other loans that were stopped or frozen. Cooperation between the EEC and Algeria has consolidated bilateral cooperation between Algeria and Belgium. Obstacles

have been removed that prevented the convening of the higher mixed commission, and more flexibility has been given to the policy of guaranteeing loans given abroad. The burden of Algeria's debt in the EEC was granted much attention. Did the political visit by Mohamed Salah Dembri succeed in improving this side and reducing the difficulties?

[Dembri] With regard to the question of the debt with the [European] parliament and the Belgian Government, the problem under discussion now is this: Are there any possibilities for a political treatment or technical treatment? [passage omitted] We have submitted a report regarding the Algerian [word indistinct] because we are entering into negotiations during the next few days; therefore we have submitted an idea, because Algeria's debt has something special regarding relations with the states, and we have asked, as a possibility, to [word indistinct]. This is because the debt concerns relations between states. As a matter of fact, there is a question mark, but I believe that in deepening this idea we may have an opportunity to reduce the burden of this debt. [end recording]

Egypt

U.S. Official Arrives To Discuss Peace Talks

Foreign Minister Meets Ross

NC1810112093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this morning with Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations, who arrived this morning on a one-day visit as part of a tour of the region.

Ross described his talks with Musa as excellent, remarking that they were within the framework of the two countries' close ties. He added that they agreed to continue their efforts to give impetus to the peace process.

Ross affirmed that the United States has not decided to postpone the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. He noted that a date for these negotiations is being determined.

Ross Hails Cairo's Role

NC1810134793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1244 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations, has said that he discussed ways to give impetus to the Middle East peace process with President Husni Mubarak during a meeting with the president today.

He affirmed that Egypt is an extraordinary partner to the peace efforts, pointing out that most of the progress achieved in the peace process so far has been the result of Egyptian efforts.

Following his meeting with the president, Ross said: We talked about the contribution Egypt can make to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. We also talked about possible ways to make progress on the other tracks. We are working together to make progress in the peace process, as we always do.

Asked to comment on Syria's announcement that it will boycott the Washington talks unless progress is seen in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Ross replied: One of the reasons I am visiting the region is to talk with each party.

Regarding the subjects he will raise during his discussions in Syria and Israel to reinvigorate the negotiations, Ross noted that the Israelis and the Syrians have both clearly indicated that they are committed to a comprehensive peace. He remarked: We will speak with both sides in order to find the best methods to attain progress.

Asked if he will visit Tunisia, Ross said he will do so and will meet with PLO officials.

Departs Cairo for Tunis

NC1910064193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations, left Cairo this morning for Tunis. In Cairo, Ross held talks with President Mubarak, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Mubarak, Uganda's Museveni Meet at Airport

NC1810124393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1203 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—President Mubarak held talks at noon today with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in the presidential hall at Cairo airport during Museveni's stopover at the airport.

Following the meeting, Museveni left for Cyprus.

Musa on Mubarak Talks With Ross, Uganda's Museveni

NC1810153393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1351 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said President Husni Mubarak's talks with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni dealt with several African issues, especially the Somali problem, the situation in Zaire, and Egypt joining the African Preferential Trade Organization, which will be put forth to the agreement's signatory countries next month.

In a statement following the two leaders' talks, Musa said President Museveni had invited President Mubarak to visit Uganda and that a date for the visit will be fixed in due course.

Musa said that President Mubarak also received Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations, and the delegation accompanying him. He added that Ross briefed President Mubarak on the situation on the various tracks of negotiations. He noted that the U.S. delegation will meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis tomorrow, Tuesday, and will then proceed to Amman, Israel, and Syria.

He said there is strong possibility that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher might visit the region next month in case of any progress or development on the various tracks.

Military Exercises With U.S. To Be Held in Nov

NC1710123693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Egypt and the United States will hold joint military exercises in November within the framework of the 1991-1995 plan to train the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Staff Major General 'Abd-al-Latif Mabruk, chairman of the Armed Forces' training body, said that the 5-year training plan includes joint exercises with a number of foreign countries, Arab countries, and friendly ones such as France and Britain.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Maj. Gen. Mabruk added: The 5-year plan also includes training officers and NCOs from a number of Arab countries in Egyptian military establishments and the exchange of military delegations and visits. It also includes joint training with the Nile Basin countries, the exchange of military delegations, training these countries' officers and NCOs in Egyptian military educational institutes, and the dispatch of Egyptian military experts to these countries to transfer Egyptian military expertise to them.

He said that Egypt's participation in joint exercises, especially with the advanced countries, has a number of benefits for the Armed Forces, including the exchange of combat and technical expertise and familiarization with modern armament systems and weapons and all that is new and up-to-date in modern armies. [passage omitted]

Somali Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC1910082493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0641 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—A delegation from the Somali National Union [al-Ittihad al-Watani al-Sumali] led by deputy leader Mohamed Sheikh Ahmed [name and title as received] arrived here this morning on a few days' visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, the Somali official said that the party's visit to Egypt derives from the party's belief in the importance of Egypt's role in resolving the Somali crisis. He noted that he will meet during the visit with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He pointed out that party leader Mohamed Raji Mohamed [name as received] will arrive in Cairo tomorrow for the same purpose.

For his part, Assistant Foreign Minister Ibrahim Sha-'ban, who received the delegation at the airport, has stated that the Somali delegation's visit is part of the continuing consultations with all Somali parties and political forces to discuss the situation in Somalia and find ways to resolve the Somali crisis.

It is worth noting that the Somali National Union is one of the oldest political parties in Somalia. It was founded in 1945.

Israeli Control of Aid to Palestinians Queried

NC1510091693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Oct 93 p 8

[From the "Close-up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Who is the Beneficiary?"]

[Text] Now that the dust raised by the agreement between the PLO and Israel has settled, the practical consequences of its signing have started to become clearer. These consequences have been underlined at the international economic conference held in Washington earlier this week to support the Palestinian entity. Commitments to contribute around $2 billion over five years were made at this conference.

The first of these consequences is that the implementation of the agreement depends on finding enough international financing to revive the Gaza Strip. It even appears that the first step for the agreement is to find a way to get aid to the area quickly and to start the badly needed reconstruction process. These steps will give the self-government authority its raison d'etre.

The world has now discovered the scope of misery and wretchedness that Israel has succeeded in nurturing inside the occupied territories. There is absolutely no infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, which is no more than a huge detention center for about 1 million people, three quarters of whom live in refugee camps. More than half of them are under 15 years old and more than half are unemployed.

According to the agreement, the economic cooperation framework under the self-government authority will be laid down by a Palestinian-Israeli committee, which will also draw up the priorities for the projects to be implemented in the Gaza Strip and West Bank in the various sectors: water, electricity, energy, banking, trade, communications, labor relations, and tourism.

It appears from all this that the money from international aid will be spent under Israel's supervision in the first place and in accordance with its own priorities. This raises many

doubts that the Palestinian development projects will turn into sources of recovery for the Israeli economy, which will implement these projects, thus merging the aid for the Palestinians with the Israeli economy.

The problem is that all these arrangements fall within the context of Israel's ambitions and plans to play a leading role in the region, where the advanced Israeli economy, the prevailing Israeli technology, Israel's complicated international relations, the overt and covert U.S.-Western blessing, and the Arab feeling of inferiority and impotence will be the locomotive for the region's economy.

Therefore, those who are enthusiastically advocating the so-called Middle East market should wait to see where the new experiment in Gaza and Jericho will be heading, and whether the Palestinians will find themselves siding with Israel's plan by virtue of reality and interests or whether they will succeed in disengaging themselves from the suffocating Israeli embrace and head toward the Arab world. The puzzling question that remains without an answer is this: What is Egypt's role in this whole situation?

Musa Meets South African Inkatha Delegation

NC1510081493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with the South African Inkatha Party delegation that is currently visiting Cairo headed by the party leader. They reviewed the measures taken in South Africa to end racial discrimination and prepare for the elections set for April to establish a democratic government.

Assistant Foreign Minister Sa'id Rif'at also met with the Inkatha Party delegation. Ambassador Rif'at said Egypt is eager to unify South African nationalist forces before holding the elections. He added that the meeting is a result of the efforts Egypt is exerting with the South African liberation movement representatives.

Indian Minister Leaves After 2-Day Visit

NC1510082593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0641 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Raghunandan Bhatia, Indian minister of state for external affairs, left Cairo early this morning after a 2-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Indian official handed President Mubarak an invitation from the Indian prime minister to attend the G-15 meetings to be held in India between 13 and 15 December. He also handed an invitation to Mrs. Suzan Mubarak to attend an education conference to be held in India between 16 and 18 December.

Terrorist Suspects Held for Interrogation

NC1810154793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—The Public Prosecution Office has sentenced terrorist Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Majid to 15 days in prison pending further interrogation. The Prosecution Office charged the terrorist, who was apprehended yesterday after taking part in the shooting at the security forces, which left two officers dead, with a number of crimes, including premeditated murder and possession of firearms, explosives, and ammunition without a license and planning to use them to break law and order.

The Prosecution Office also sentenced drug trafficker Sayyid Musa to 15 days in prison pending further interrogation for possession of and trafficking in narcotics and unlicensed firearms.

Terrorist Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hamid admitted that he and his two colleagues, who were killed, were planning to commit terrorist crimes and that they had held meetings and planned crimes in the den in which they were hiding in the al-Matariyah area.

Al-Alfi on Anti-'Terrorist' Campaign

NC1810180293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1611 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has asserted that the police agencies will not hesitate to pursue fugitive terrorists, no matter what the sacrifices are.

After attending the funeral procession of police martyrs Major Haytham Ibrahim Abu-al-'Aynayn and First Lieutenant Nabil Ibrahim Ahmad today, the interior minister said the martyrs' blood will not have been spilled in vain and that the police agencies, in cooperation with the people, will confront firmly and decisively this perverted faction that terrifies women and children and seeks to undermine construction and development.

He added that the malicious and cowardly random shooting shows these elements' desperation and the beginning of their collapse; it proves that the police have struck them effectively. He affirmed that the police will continue to escalate their campaign to uproot terrorism.

Major Haytham Ibrahim and First Lieutenant Nabil Ibrahim were killed yesterday when a group of terrorists fired on them as they were arresting a drug trafficker in al-Matariyah District, Cairo.

Al-Alfi Views Police Role

NC1910104193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has reiterated that the Ministry and all other security departments are determined to uproot terrorism and hunt down its remnants wherever they are in Egypt.

The interior minister said the security bodies continue to pursue their policy day and night to strike at the terrorist

cells and liquidate them. He said this is a pledge made by all security departments to wipe out the misled terrorist group.

Commenting on the terrorist operation in the al-Marj area on 17 October, which left two police officers dead, al-Alfi said the world and the Egyptian people know the terrorists are a group of hired killers who have no principles. The interior minister stressed that their cowardly acts run counter to their claims. This makes us more determined to wipe them out, al-Alfi added.

In a statement to MENA following his meeting with the Cabinet last night, the interior minister revealed that the security bodies have arrested many terrorists recently. But he said he would reveal more details on the terrorists at the end of interrogations and their referral for trial. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said last night that the government will confront terrorism decisively and strike at all terrorist schemes. The prime minister urged all ministries to coordinate efforts and participate in confronting all terrorists.

At the Cabinet meeting yesterday, the prime minister praised the role played by the police in safeguarding Egypt's safety and security. He affirmed that the government has provided the police with every capability to perform their duties successfully.

Police Arrest 61 'Terrorists,' Other Suspects

NC1810174493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1658 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Police agencies have arrested 61 terrorists in Cairo, al-Jizah, al-Fayyum, al-Sharqiyah, al-Minufiyah, al-Gharbiyah, Dumyat, al-Minya, and Asyut governorates as part of the Interior Ministry's drive to intensify its campaign to arrest fugitive terrorists nationwide.

Efforts of working security groups formed (?by) the Interior Ministry departments resulted in the arrest of 70 suspects known for having links with extremist groups in Dayrut and Markaz Abu Tij. Another eight people carrying unlicensed weapons were arrested.

Public Security and Cairo Security Directorate authorities also arrested fugitive convict Muhammad Sa'id Sayyid Ahmad Dawud. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison in Case 412 of 1986 in connection with setting fire to video clubs in Awsim, al-Jizah.

Police Detective Killed, 1 Injured in Asyut

NC1610102993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1002 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Asyut, 16 Oct (MENA)—Secret Police Detective Hilal Marzuq Nazir of the Asyut Supplies Department has been shot dead by unidentified persons. A woman received a bullet wound in the thigh in the same incident. Unidentified gunmen opened fire at the detective in the Asyut train station early this morning. He was heading to work from his village of Baqur, Abu Tij center, when the gunmen shot him dead and escaped. Citizen Khassah 'Abd-al-Hamid Muwafi received a bullet wound while she was standing at the train station during the incident. She was taken to the Abu Tij hospital for treatment.

Officials in the Asyut Security, Public Security, and State Security Departments headed for the scene of the shooting. The security forces surrounded the area to search for the culprits and look for the murder weapon. The Abu Tij Investigation Bureau has launched an investigation into the incident.

Article Views Anti-Labor, Anti-AL-SHA'B Moves

NC1510172493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Oct 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Yes to Democracy, No to Dawn Visitors"]

[Text] The public was surprised by the unexpected arrests of Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, two of his journalist colleagues at the newspaper AL-SHA'B, the paper's chief editor, and the Labor Party secretary general. The people learned that this was because of articles AL-SHA'B published before and after the presidential referendum. The arrests were followed by a decision to release these individuals on bail.

The public's surprise stemmed from the fact that the arrest occurred after the referendum and before President Mubarak was sworn in for a third term. President Mubarak had always boasted that since he came to power in 1981 he had never closed a newspaper, banned a book, or barred anyone from writing. Consequently, this action against leading Labor Party and AL-SHA'B officials was startling, especially because it took a violent form. They were arrested at 2 a.m., giving the impression that the catastrophic era of visitors at dawn was returning [reference to the dawn arrests of opponents of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir]. Their subsequent interrogation lasted until late the following night.

These surprising measures occurred at a time when President Mubarak himself was asserting that democracy will be markedly strengthened during his third term. Was this a fulfillment of his promise to the nation?

We do not object to the interrogation. We strongly object, however, to the bizarre and cruel form that their arrests and interrogation took, particularly their detention until they could post bail.

Press freedom and freedom of expression are pillars of democracy. Without them, there is no democracy.

Although we do not approve of slander, sensationalism, and incitement, we also believe that the authorities must remain broad-minded so that the progress of liberty can continue and so that freedom of thought and expression

may remain unfettered. Otherwise democracy will remain incomplete, and the wall between the ruler and the people will persist.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Arab-Israeli Talks, Somalia

NC1710090993 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1943 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the Libyan Revolutionary Youth Force in Misratah on 14 October—recorded]

[Text] First, I would like to thank you for my warm welcome yesterday and today in the city of Misratah [applause]. In the morning, there was a gathering in this place. I spoke and said that I had decided to visit Misratah on these particular days because they have historical significance. It was in this month, al-Timur, which was called October, that Europe, with Italy in the forefront, invaded our country in 1911. We are now in the month of al-Timur, which was called October at that time.

We salute Misratah in this particular month because it honored Libya and Arabism with its struggle. [applause and chants] Misratah brought honor to all Libya and Arabism. It recorded immortal and glorious pages of struggle and jihad to repulse the barbaric Italian invasion of our nation. We know that all Libyans faced that invasion, which targeted the coastal Libyan cities from Darnah to Zuwarah, shelled them from warships and tried to destroy and occupy them. But Misratah was a strategic target for the Italian enemy. If it had succeeded in occupying Misratah, it would have been able to advance into Libyan territory, besiege the entire coast, the city of Tripoli, and al-Jifarah plain, and create a barrier between the Libyans in the center and the west. This would have helped the enemy realize its objectives of invading the central region, crossing to al-Jufrah and Fazzan, and isolating al-Jabal al-Akhdar.

Misratah was therefore a strategic target for the Italians. They made a great effort, and they used all their brutality, degradations, and lack of conscience in an attempt to conquer, destroy, and annihilate Misratah. As I said in the morning, the Italian planes conducted raids on people who were buying and selling in the marketplace. They attacked and destroyed a market, not a military camp or a war place. They did it without the Libyan people doing anything wrong. What did the Libyan people do to Italy in 1911?

What do we conclude from this? We conclude that in this month in 1911—that is, more than 80 years ago—they attacked this city with unprecedented brutality, and without this city, whose people were simple peasants, traders, nomads, and fishermen, committing any sin.

We should not, therefore, rule out the possibility of their doing it again, repeating the same barbaric act 80, 90, or 100 years later. They came back to us after 1,000 years. Imagine, they repeated their acts against us after 1,000 years. Now, after 100 years, they may do it again. What would prevent them? They have grown up with an inherent tendency to colonize nations. It is their nature to enslave people. Italy is the country of slaves. It is the country where whites, not Africans, were enslaved. The Africans were labeled slaves because the Americans and Europeans took Africans and sold them. No, slaves are those who lose their freedom and are sold by others. In Italy, the whites were the slaves. The revolution of Spartacus, who tried to free the slaves and was executed, was staged in Italy. So, enslaving man is something intrinsic in those people.

They divided themselves into nobility and poor men. To this day in Britain, the British are divided in two: nobility and common people. You have heard of the British House of Commons. This house is composed of common people. The Lords comprises the nobility. How did this nobility come into being? Because they are rich. They were feudal and then they became exploiters. This is a fact that we must know. The lords and the noble classes, which are the capitalists, now rule in the West. They are the capitalist class. This was the class of noblemen, lords, and senators, and then it became the imperialist, capitalist circles. They are the same, and they are still there and are in possession of a diabolical power. Therefore, all the peoples' freedoms and existence are in danger. These are the people God calls shameless and unscrupulous. The Koran warns of them and says that if they turn against you, they will show you no mercy. This [word indistinct] city is a historic testimony of the Christian West's barbarism and hatred for us, and therefore it has no mercy on us, it violates our honor, destroys our houses, kills our children, scatters them. Italy's actions in [word indistinct], Tripoli, Misratah, the killings, the dispersal, the exile of thousands, the killing of thousands of people with all possible means of destruction. The most advanced weapon then was the plane. The first time the plane was used, it was used against Libya and the Libyan people.

These people, brothers, are still there and lying in wait for you. If they overcome you, then they will turn you into slaves. Why? Because the revolution has not yet been won in Europe and the United States. Had the revolution won, then the capitalist, imperialist, exploitist class—which is the descendant of the nobility and lords' classes who suppressed the common people, their own people whom they sold as slaves and enslaved—would have disappeared. [Words indistinct] grandfathers between us and them? Is it possible that we had our Adam and they had another one? Is it possible that we are not united by one Adam?

This is a fact. Their current actions against Somalia, Iraq, the Palestinians, and Lebanon and what they are now doing against Libya show that we are facing a real enemy who does not lack false justifications. It is an enemy able to dominate the United Nations and make it serve its purposes and destroy laws and sanctities. It is

not possible that the Iraqi people are being punished to this day because of Kuwait. Impossible. What is Kuwait, to make them punish the Iraqi people to this day? This is a lie. Even the Kuwaiti does not believe it. The Kuwaitis are now ashamed of the punishment meted out to the Iraqi people, if it is done for their sakes. But they are saying: Impossible. Iraq cannot be punished to this day because of Kuwait. The Kuwait story is over. Iraq entered and left. No. This is an expression of a latent hatred. God willing, and we regrettably say God willing, we hope that this is applied to one of those gloating over the Iraqi people, that another Palestine is sacrificed if only to learn a lesson. We should not rule out seeing one of the Arabian Peninsula peoples or the Arab peoples in the Arab East or Arab West being humiliated like they are humiliating Iraq and Somalia. Has Somalia occupied Kuwait?

Now, take what is happening in Somalia. Is this a distribution of supplies? Are these helicopters, bombs, rockets, and fleets called supplies? [slogans and applause]

My visit to you this month is intentional because I said that we are reopening the historical record, and we ask what has happened from October 1911 to this day, October 1993, and see what will happen beginning October 1993 in light of the past and see what we have to do.

First of all, do not rely on the United Nations, the Security Council, the General Assembly, international law, or the International Court of Justice. [applause] Do not rely on them because they have been shown to be useless. They are being maintained as a formality, as an act of self-deception that we are living in a civilized world that has international organizations. The UN secretary general can only act as a mailman, bring a letter, take a letter. He cannot propose and say, for example, that the solution for Lockerbie is this or that, that the solution for the confrontation between Libya and the major Western countries should be this way.

I challenge the UN secretary general to propose, to come out with his own idea for any solution for the confrontation between Libya and the West. He cannot even lift a paper such as this one, until the United States, Britain, and France give their consent. The mailman delivers this paper. Since you brought it, then you have become a mailman. This is an intended insult: First, the end of the United Nations as was the case with the League of Nations; second, an insult to the Arabs because the UN secretary general is an Arab and has to be humiliated and insulted before the world and turned into a mailman because he is an Arab. To protect Egypt's dignity—because the secretary general is Egyptian—and to protect the Arab nation's dignity, the UN secretary general has no choice but to resign because he is an Egyptian and an Arab. He is in a very bad position. A secretary general should never be a mailman.

So what do you expect from the United Nations or other organizations? Do you expect it to defend a people? There is an internal conflict in Somalia and this is another issue. The problem of power, wealth, and weapons has not been solved anywhere in the world, including in Somalia. All the peoples are now suffering from this problem. The introduction, the first page of the Green Book says that all peoples suffer from the problem of authority, of who rules. The solution is that everyone should rule, that is have a people's authority. This is the solution. They do not have the idea of the people's authority, they do not know how to hold congresses, how to form popular committees. They can still do so. But Somalia is like the United States, Palestine, Zaire, Togo, Italy, Russia, and like any country where the (?power struggle) has not been resolved. There is another course. The political problem in Somalia has not been solved. The political problem in every country will not be resolved until it becomes a jamahiriyah. Otherwise, the power struggle will continue, and until it becomes socialist according to Green Book socialism, the struggle for wealth will continue between the rich and the poor, between the refugees and the dispersed, between the master and the slave, between the ruler and ruled. This conflict will continue until the problem between them is radically resolved according to the jamahiriyah theory.

What sins have the Somali people perpetrated to have fleets deployed against them, to be bombarded from the sea and the air? They are building a prison in Somalia to make the Somalis prisoners in their own country. The Arabs, meanwhile, are spectators. Isn't Somalia a member of the Arab League as an Arab state? Let the Arab League act. Let the Arabs act. How can they let one of their own members be humiliated like this, especially as Somalia is not accused of involvement in the Pan Am or Lockerbie issue, nor has it invaded Kuwait, nor is it smuggling hashish to the United States. You know how they accused Panama of smuggling hashish to the United States. It is merely a question of wishing to subjugate nations—colonialism.

They said that Panama was involved in smuggling hashish, and they occupied it. Nobody knows why they occupied Granada. They say that they occupied it because it was ruled by communists. Half of the world was ruled by communists. Why Granada, then? They threaten Cuba because it is ruled by Castro. There are a 1,000 Castros in the world. It is not their business whether his name is Castro or Fidel. They say that they do not like Fidel Castro, and he must be changed.

They say that Libya shot down Western planes over Niger and Britain. They say that Iraq invaded Kuwait. But what about Somalia? Somalia did not occupy Kuwait, nor has it downed planes, nor is it involved in smuggling hashish. Somalia was ruled by communists before. Why didn't the Americans take over Somalia when the communists were in power? Siad Barre was a communist and he ruled Somalia.

Communism is no longer an excuse. [Words indistinct], otherwise they would not have come to Somalia where communism no longer exists. Their objectives are exposed and their excuses are weak. France occupied

Algeria in 1930. Why? Because, they say, the Algerian ruler hit the French ambassador with a fan. Italy occupied Libya in 1911. We asked, why did you occupy Libya? Was it because the Libyan ruler hit the Italian ambassador with a fan? They never answered our question as to why they occupied our country. Some of our kinsfolk and grandfathers were martyred, and we were humiliated and scattered. Who can answer this question: Why did Italy occupy our country and kill our kinsfolk? Can anyone answer this question? Nobody can answer. What have our grandfathers done? They did not fire rockets at Italy, nor did they shoot down planes over Lockerbie, nor did they fail to recognize Israel in 1911. Israel was not there in 1911.

The British occupied Egypt in 1882. Why did they occupy it? Was it because Egypt fought against Israel? No. Israel was not there in 1882. Was it because Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was in power? Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir was not there in 1882. Why, therefore, did the British occupy Egypt?

They want to subjugate nations and keep them ignorant and simple-minded. They want nations to remain unaware of history. This talk makes them furious and exposes them in front of the world. [slogans and applause].

They are annoyed by al-Qadhdhafi because al-Qadhdhafi addresses the masses directly and the nations listen. He exposes the whole thing. They do not want someone who exposes them and demonstrates their insolence [slogans, applause].

When people carried out a coup against Gorbachev, only I said these people were infuriated because Gorbachev had sold the Soviet Union at auction without even a fight. Gorbachev was not obliged to relinquish the Soviet Union, the Red Army, the Communist Party, or the socialist camp. They slaughtered his allies one after the other—from Romania to Germany—under his nose without his lifting a finger. I said that the Red Army and the Soviet people felt humiliated before their real and historic rival, the capitalist camp. How could he sell the Soviet Union without a fight? How could Gorbachev hand over the Soviet Union? That is why I said that those people were right. All hell broke loose; the West, in its entirety, boycotted celebrations to mark the inauguration of the Great Man-Made River because of the cable I sent to Gorbachev. They brought ministers [words indistinct]. They all agreed in Brussels, the capital of the European Common Market. They said that as long as al-Qadhdhafi had supported the coup against Gorbachev, they would boycott the Great Man-Made River celebrations they had planned to attend.

We could not have turned into a deaf Satan [reference to Islamic saying that whoever withholds the truth is a deaf Satan] so that they would attend the celebrations. A man who withholds the truth is a deaf Satan. We could not have played that role.

Gorbachev later fell in spite of them. They supported his successor. [sentence indistinct] They said the Soviet Union could not end this way, and that the matter should be done democratically. They said that Gorbachev should not be eliminated by a coup. The West described Gorbachev as a legitimate ruler. When Yeltsin and the group from the republics met—when Gorbachev was the legitimate president of the Soviet Union—they prevented him from entering his own office. The West supported that bloodless coup. Yesterday they said that this approach was illegitimate; this is the same approach. They no longer though of whether Gorbachev was legitimate or not. See how hypocritical they can be?

There is a crisis in Russia now. The parliament protested the policy pursued by the president and staged a sit-in in the parliament building. They used tanks against the building; they killed the parliament. The democratic West supported the massacre. Why, then, do they boast about democracy and legitimacy? The parliament is the legitimate authority elected by the people. This is the democracy they enshrine and believe in; the democracy that the entire world worships. It is elections in which the people elect their own representatives. If representatives can be attacked with tanks, why should the people elect them?

They wondered, how could al-Qadhdhafi say that the parliament should not be attacked with tanks? How could al-Qadhdhafi say that the president may resign but that the parliament must stay? Indeed, why does the president not resign instead of killing parliament members? It was a horrible incident that history has recorded in smudged letters. They support it now to cause shame for coming generations. One day they will regret this conduct. Russia is a long-standing friend of ours. We hope our friendship with Russia will continue as it was with the Soviet Union. We have built historic bridges of friendship with Moscow that go back to [late Egyptian President] Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and the Libyan revolution, and continue even to this day. Moscow benefited economically from its friendship with us. We could not have kept silent before such a horrid crime. If we had, life would have lost its meaning; white would turn into black for the sake of interests; the truth would become false and vice versa; life would have lost its meaning completely; there would not be norms to discriminate between the permissible and the prohibited [slogans, applause].

If we permitted such faulty conduct, no one would feel safe about his freedom, life, future, or rights. Of such conduct I cite the fact that they brought hundreds of thousands from Russia into Palestine, saying that they are Israelis. The Palestinians who were driven out of their lands in 1948 are banned from coming to Palestine. This is one of the major codes of conduct that contradict historical norms. It is a shameful contradiction to which we cannot keep silent; we cannot recognize any measures based on such a contradiction. Is that not an injustice imposed on us? They bring people from the Volga River and settle them in Palestine, the heart of the Arab homeland which now lies in submission, as though this is not happening on Arab land, but on another planet. This is happening on Arab soil. How could you bring the Khazars [reference to Khazars' conversion to Judaism in the 8th century] from the Volga River, settle them in

Palestine, and drive the Palestinian people out and prevent them from returning? [audience cries *all*: "This would be a disgrace for us"] You are certainly right, it is a disgrace for us. [slogans, applause]

This is an unacceptable injustice. It would be unreasonable if planes arrived every day with people from remote parts of the world and settled them in the homes of the Palestinians who left their homes in 1948 and 1967. This Palestinian was standing in that courtyard only yesterday. Today the courtyard does not belong to him; it now belongs to a man they brought from Siberia.

If Arabs had surrendered for lack of power to resist, we could have excused them. But Arabs at present are the most capable nation when it comes to resistance. It is the Israelis who are in the weakest position. America is collapsing and so is the West; capitalism is collapsing on the heads of capitalists, colonialists, and imperialists.

Our only recourse is to endure and remain steadfast. Why should we accept falsehood and injustice? If we have to die, let us die but we will not call black white. Is it reasonable for us to recognize the Khazars as Palestinians who have a right to Palestine? How much acumen do the Arab League, the Arab nation, and the cordon states have? Some say that this West, this ghoul, is dominating the world and the only recourse is to recognize this and appease them. They must not be appeased. [slogans, applause] This falsehood is being imposed on us. They said: Appease them. All right, some Arab, and other, countries have appeased the West, prostrated themselves before it, and are playing host to the Israelis. Is it now raining gold and silver on them to solve their economic problems? The United States is the world's largest debtor. The dollar is not worth anything in any world market any more. How many dollars do you need to get British, Japanese, or German currency? I mean you need several dollars to get one yen, mark, or pound sterling. The dollar no longer has any value. Fill a sack with dollars and go to Europe. They will give you a few bills of other currencies, German or Japanese currency. What can a country with conditions like this do for other nations? It is a country that cannot feed and provide jobs and medical care for its own citizens.

There are 20 to 25 million Americans who have cancer, and their country is unable to treat them. Medically millions can be cured but financially it is not possible. They do not have enough money to get treatment on their own and the state cannot treat them because treatment is too costly. The United States closed down 100 air bases—100 military bases abroad—because of its economic problems. It abandoned Reagan's Star Wars program, which formerly preoccupied the United States and the world. They used to call it Star Wars. Now it has been abolished.

The Democrats, who are currently in power in the United States, realize that the country's problem is economic and domestic and that the country can reap no benefit from foreign adventures. Hopefully, they will begin to remedy all that has been done by the imperialist Republican circles.

Those Arab and other countries who have joined the West's convoy, what have they reaped? They have reaped nothing. It is good that we have concrete evidence of this. We went to our Arab brothers and said: You are the United States' friends. Come and mediate among Libya, the United States, France, and Britain—your superpower friends. It was a test for them. They did not say no. They said all right. They spoke to the United States, Britain, and France, once, twice, 10 times, 100 times. The presidents, the kings, the foreign ministers, the heads of governments, and other ministers tried. Did they solve the problem between us and them? They could not. What does this mean? It means that they do not even accept high-level mediation. What, then, is the use of the relationship you have with them?

Do you think that you can solve the problems of Palestine, Somalia, and Libya? [slogans and applause]

The closest states to us are Tunisia and Egypt; they are on our borders; we share common borders, land, and people. It is indeed one people from Egypt to Tunisia. You can walk among one and the same people from Upper Egypt to the western desert, (al-Batnan), the central area, (al-Jaffarah), (al-Nufusah), southern Tunisia, up to Tunis. They are all cousins. These two states have made every possible effort—we cannot deny the role undertaken by President Husni Mubarak, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Foreign Minister Ben Yahya in particular, or the Algerian foreign minister. I cannot deny the role the Arab League has played. Tunis is a friend of France. Ben Yahya made more efforts than the Libyan secretary of foreign affairs. However, what is the result? It is no use. Zine El Abidine visited them and talked to them. He said: We are friends, you harmed us; the harm has been inflicted on Egypt and Tunisia, not only Libya, as a result of the embargo, the blockade, and the boycott. Has the problem between France and Libya been solved, simple as it was? It was a simple problem, different from that of Lockerbie. Simple as it was, it has not been resolved. This means that the West has no respect for friends. It is no use.

We thought that we could at least use that friendship to solve the problem. They failed to resolve it. What is the use of that friendship? Did they bring billions and invest in projects that could turn Arab states from backwardness to progress? Impossible. They give with their right and take with their left. President Husni Mubarak made every possible effort with America. It is no use. You can take nothing from them. The Jordanian king, the Moroccan king, King Fahd, and the Kuwaiti amir. They all approached America and Britain and pleaded with them, but they would not listen to them. They asked: How could we not speak; we are friends. They told them: You Arabs are only requested to give your lands, petroleum, and lower your heads in submission; you have no

say whatsoever. Why? Has God created us to be slaves for the West? What is the meaning of this life?

Going back to October 1911—to Misratah and where we are today—the Italians came and said they would turn us into part of Italy. They wanted to teach our children Italian so that they would be Italians. Why did we not accept? [slogans]

Why did Misratah not agree to become Italian, allow the Italians to rule it, and teach its citizens the Italian language, Christianity, and the religion of the churches? It would have spared its citizens the need to fight and die. Why did they die? They preferred death, displacement, and aerial bombardment of the heart of Misratah's marketplace rather than become Italianized. Of what value is life.... [slogans extolling Misratah in which al-Qadhdhafi joins and prolonged applause] [sentence incomplete as heard] The sacrifices your kinsfolk made were the historical proof of our rejection of foreign custodianship and domination, enslavement, and colonialism. Now, regrettably, the Arabs are accepting without opposition what Britain [as heard] did to us in 1911. We must be clear about this now. We are resisting—yes. We have not decided to cross the Mediterranean or traverse the Atlantic to America. The Arabs, regrettably, have not so far fought against the so-called Israel. Let us at least not recognize it. There are facts that we cannot deny or circumvent. Who can compel us to recognize the so-called Israel? What is Israel, anyway? To begin with, what is the term Israel? Who in the United States, Europe, Japan, China, or Gabon can answer this question: What is this term Israel? What is this Israel so that we might recognize it? What innovation, misguided invention, and falsehood is this? Will we recognize it without conviction? We are not convinced. Convince us. We are not convinced that they can bring the Khazars from Siberia and settle them in Palestine. We are not convinced of this. This is wrong. We cannot accept, recognize, or sign this. Hah. At least let us not accept and recognize falsehood.

We cannot remain silent in the face of the fact that 7 million Palestinians were recently expelled from Palestine and are now are barred from returning to their homes and farms in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Jaffa—not only in the West Bank. The West Bank and Gaza are full of refugee camps. Don't you hear of clashes in this camp, a curfew in that camp, and a battle in that camp? Where did these camps' residents come from? They came from Haifa, Jaffa, Acre, and Tel Aviv. This is a Palestinian nation expelled from the coastal areas and settled in the West Bank and Gaza. This happened in 1948. In 1967, they expelled the West Bank's residents to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and elsewhere. All right, who can solve this riddle for us: the Khazars, who came from who knows where, and the Falashas, whom we do not know when they became Israelis, have the right to [slogans, applause].... [sentence incomplete as heard]

Who can really convince us that the Palestinians should leave their country with no hope of return and that the people who became Israelis who-knows-when can come and settle in Palestine?

Now in Bosnia-Herzegovina, an Islamic group is being exterminated. For your information, young men, we are the Serbs' friends because Yugoslavia is a friend of the Arabs and Tito was Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's friend and a personal friend of mine. Yugoslavia is a friend of the Third World and a founder of the Nonaligned Movement. It struggled for the sake of peace. For many years there were relations between Libya and Yugoslavia, the Arabs and Yugoslavia, and Jamal 'Abd-al- Nasir and Yugoslavia. You know this. Therefore, the Serbs, who are the citizens of Belgrade and its environs, were actually Tito's supporters. Although Tito came from Croatia, he was Yugoslav and his aides were all Serbs. There is no enmity between us and the Serbs. Another thing: The Serbs' Orthodox faith is the closest creed to Islam. Another fact: It is the antithesis of Catholicism. The Muslims, as such, are our brothers. The Serbs, as such, are our friends. The Yugoslavs are generally our friends. The Orthodox faith is the closest creed to Islam. It is a progressive Christian creed that is close to Islam and opposed to Catholicism, which is the colonialist creed.

Nevertheless, a conspiracy is now afoot against Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslim people. They succeeded in fomenting enmity between the Orthodox faith and Islam despite the closeness of the two creeds. All the Western countries in Europe and elsewhere—the Western bloc—have agreed to eliminate Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslim people. I will tell you more. When Bosnia-Herzegovina's crisis ends, the process of eliminating Islam in Albania and later in Macedonia will begin. You will hear in the future of battles to eliminate Islam in Europe. Why? They say: Europe is Christian, and we do not accept a Muslim nation in the heart of Europe. Look, this is their justification. To them this sounds reasonable and they say: You must understand our position, which is reasonable. We want Europe to remain purely Christian. Please do not bring a Muslim nation into its midst. This is anti-Christian, it does not serve our security, and we cannot accept it. Do not blame us if we eliminate this pocket.

Good, let us apply this to Palestine.

We are a Muslim nation which does not accept a Jewish pocket or a Jewish state inside the Islamic, Arab state. We do not accept a foreign Israeli state inside the Arab homeland. [applause] We have here a case of response in kind. [applause] Similarly we do not accept a foreign pocket inside the Arab homeland. This is a foreign body. Accepting it would be against reality. I am illustrating to you the falsehood that they want to impose on us. No, we have decided to resist. Really. We cannot accept falsehood at all, regardless of the consequences.

We refused to become Italians or agree to be Rome's fourth coastline when we were miserably poor and lacked the material resources to resist. Our people paid a

high price for rejecting this falsehood and the effrontery of the demand that Libya should become Italian and that the Libyan people should become Rome's fourth coastline. We told them this could not happen because it was falsehood, effrontery, and an unacceptable distortion of history and geography. The price of our rejection was convoys of martyrs that extended from the place where are now standing all the way to [place-name indistinct].

This was a correct stance. How bad could things get? Those who died were rewarded by going to heaven and those who lived were proud that they had fought against this effrontery and falsehood. Libya still exists and is not Italian. This is better than if we had accepted effrontery and falsehood and said: Yes, we are Italian, we are Rome's fourth coastline, and now we are Italian and Christian. Truth remains truth. You must resist falsehood regardless of the price you pay. What is happening, now, brothers, is an effrontery and a falsehood that cannot really be accepted. They cannot say that Libya is confronted by the Lockerbie problem, that it had better remain silent, that al-Qadhdhafi would soon say: Rid me of this problem, and we will accept falsehoods. No, absolutely not. Let them not think this way. They would be deceiving themselves if they did. By God they would be deceiving themselves if they so believed. [chanting of slogans: jihad and martyrdom] Yes, martyrdom and jihad are better than accepting falsehood. Yes, this is the slogan we must hear. Let it resound in the corners of the Arab homeland and the world. Yes, that's right [slogans: jihad, jihad] [applause] Yes, that's right. Jihad and martyrdom is better than accepting falsehood. We cannot really accept falsehood. Even if we have the Lockerbie crisis, the Pan Am problem, a million problems of this kind, they must still understand that we cannot recognize falsehood and deny right when we know well that it is the right thing. We cannot accept that the Palestinian cause is, when all is said and done, limited to Gaza and Jericho. God forbid. What, then, is the significance of the Palestinian martyrs from 1936 until today? Are we now supposed to admit that we were wrong to fight in 1948, 1967, 1956, and 1936? [slogans: "Palestine Must Return"] Yes, it will inevitably return. I hope you will remain alive until it returns. [slogans, applause]

Look, young men, even the Americans and the West will one day discover, whether it is in the near or distant future, that he who shudders in fear of them is not as useful to them as they might now imagine. This is because he does not tell them the facts and merely believes them. It is said that your friend is not the one who believes you but the one who tells you the facts. The Americans and the Europeans are presently involved with a generation of Arabs who tell them: Yes, yes, yes, right, right, right.

How can it be right? Let them know that one day they will discover that these people with whom they are now happy because they consider them their own creations, have misled and deceived them and involved them in losing ventures. Let them also know that those who have been resisting them are the ones who tell the truth. They should learn a lesson from the truth. Someone tells them: There is no resistance in this region and all the people will surrender. Go into it.

The enemy will believe this agent's words and enter the region only to be caught in ambushes and pitfalls, face stiff resistance on all sides, and be destroyed. The enemy will discover that his own agent, who facilitated things for him, has eventually brought him losses.

When someone tells him to proceed although there is resistance and gunfire and he might die, the enemy will eventually say: I wish I had listened to the adversary's advice. The adversary told me the truth, warned me of impending death. The agent, however, did not warn me of impending death.

So some people eased the way for the Americans, the Europeans, and the Israelis and told them: Establish an Israeli state in the heart of the Arab homeland. The Arabs will eventually recognize it and the Jews' future is guaranteed.

Guaranteed? It was those people who misled the Jews. What guaranteed future is there for them? The Americans are also told: Come, you will soon return to Libya and the oil regions. [slogans]

They should ascertain the truth of this talk. What we tell them is different than what the other Arabs tell them. No, we tell them the truth. We are now resisting just as we resisted Italy. Our land is alive with fire. O Americans and Europeans, even if you destroy our planes, missiles, and radar—we know you can do it—we are not afraid of fire. We are fighting.... [slogans] [sentence incomplete as heard] All right, all right. We tell them that we are fighting with rifles, machine guns, mortars, medium-caliber shells, grenades, mines, and even, as a last resort, with knives.

We will not deceive them. We will not tell the Americans the Arab land is open to you and welcome, nor tell the Jews it is over and the Arabs will recognize you and you can sleep. No, we will tell the Jews: Don't sleep; this is a great trick that will destroy you. We hope that you will sleep, but we warn you that the knife will come, because this is not a solution. Those who placed you in the midst of the Arab land are the same as those who placed the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They are now liquidating them and even you will be cleansed from [tasfiyatukum min] the Arab land. [applause]

They tell the Americans that the whole world is afraid of them, that they are the policeman of the world and the only superpower. In fact, we do not recognize these things, whether a single superpower or a million superpowers. We acknowledge our independence on our land and will live a worthy life under the sun. [applause]

Anyway, brothers, we tell them and they must understand that we will resist and they must take us into account. If they rely on agents, they will be liquidated. If a misled dog lied to them that Libya is easy, he is a liar

who deceives them to make a living and eat their crumbs. There is a Libyan people, and they have heard of them. I purposely say this under these circumstances so that the United States, Britain, France, and the Arab countries which are now beating the drums for the Israeli death train traveling through the Arab countries from the [Atlantic] ocean to the Gulf may hear our voice. Let them not think that the Arab nation has capitulated. No, no. Capitulation is very remote because, brothers, there are no justifications for it. Suffice it that the Libyan people see no justification for this capitulation. This is enough. We did not capitulate back in October 1911. [applause]

In Somalia the stand and steadfastness of one single man, Aidid, and their failure to conquer him made the whole world change its stand. Now Somalia is considered an Arab and African country, and Aidid has become a national hero with whom they must negotiate. When did all this happen? When he resisted them and fighting began. Fleets cruised off Somalia, landing operations took place, and aircraft flew over Somalia, breaking the sound barrier to frighten the people. This is terrorism. This is a boyish terrorist operation carried out by some madman. This operation cannot end a people. They bring their aircraft to Somalia so that the people can destroy them. What then? The people will stay on their land. This is boyish play. [applause]

None of these countries—neither America nor any other country—constitute an occupation force. They may constitute a terrorist force. Terrorism cannot end nations, never. They must understand that it is difficult to occupy other people's land. It is difficult to subjugate another people. They will eventually resist through all means. No agent, not even a ruler, can represent a people; the people speak for themselves. Somalia's heroic stand, the resistance [changes thought]. When American blood ran, the positions of the United States, the United Nations, the Security Council, the Arab nation, and the African nations changed. They all began talking of Somalia as an African country. How long did they slaughter the Somali people? African countries did not say that Somalia was an African country. They tortured the Somali people, but the Arab countries did not say that Somalia is an Arab country.

This was done by only one single individual who remained steadfast and said no. Then all countries changed their stand; the United States, the United Nations, and the Security Council changed their minds. In addition, countries began withdrawing their forces from Somalia, and the American people and Congress moved and asked about the massacre in which Clinton had embroiled them. Who in America wants his son to die in Somalia? They told him: Why go and die for Somalia? They said it is Bush who sent us there, and Clinton must take us out. Perhaps Clinton is doing this, because this is not his responsibility but Bush's. That was a reckless action. Despite the fact that it was a reckless act, he regrettably found people to trust him and carry it out and go all that way until it was proved he was reckless.

What would a people like the Libyan people, with a strategic location such as Libya's, a country with an area of 2 million square km, a people with experience in struggle, do? If one individual in Somalia changed the world, would the position of a whole people fail to change the world? The Libyan people's position will change the situation in Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Egypt, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula—everywhere, and Africa. The Libyan people's stand will affect the stands and fates of many peoples. The Libyan people are responsible for raising the Arab nation's morale and exhorting it to resist. Brothers: We are not exhorting anyone to invade or launch aggression, but to defend our independence, land, and homes. [applause] This is not the first time they have tried their luck with us. Misratah provides testimony.

If they want to reach an understanding with us, we are not madmen or terrorists, as they say, and we do not accept their conditions. If they want to fight us, we do not tell them not to fight us. We tell them that we will resist with a historic resistance that will not end in one or two days. We know that our resistance will triumph because neither the Untied States nor a 1,000 states like the United States can feel safe and sleep in the Libyan desert and on the Libyan shores. This is impossible. This is impossible. This is impossible. [applause]

We have the potential and resources to resist, and we have weapons to arm our people; and nature and right are on our side. All resources of resistance are available to us. Thus, we must not capitulate.

I am speaking from Misratah and in October, and they know the meaning of October. I am talking from the town that produced Ramadan al-Suwayhili and Sa'dun al-Suwayhili. [applause]

UK Lawyers Doubt Fair Trial for Suspects

LD1610104593 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] On its first evening news bulletin yesterday, BBC Television talked about the judicial judgments recently rendered by the courts that acquitted the police defendants [in the Birmingham Six case] because of the media propaganda that preceded the trial [sentence as heard]. It said these judgments constitute legal precedents to which lawyers could refer in the future to demand acquittal for their clients.

The television station quoted the lawyers as saying that the two suspects in the Lockerbie incident would not have a chance for a fair trial in Scotland or in America because of the very large media and official propaganda campaign accompanying this case.

Arab Lawyers Union Joins Defense of Suspects

LD1810165293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Oct, JANA—The Arab Lawyers Union has announced its support for the communique issued on 10 October by the defense council of the two Libyans suspected in the case of the U.S. PAN AM jet. The union announced it will join and participate in the defense council of the two suspects with two prominent members of the union who are brother Ahmed al-Khawajah, chairman of the Arab Lawyers Union, and Dr. Mufid Shihab, professor of international law and dean of the University of Cairo.

The union's stance is in support of, and solidarity with, the two suspects' defense team that has criticized the Libyan Foreign Ministry for its efforts to pressure the defendants into appearing before a Scottish court. The defense team considers those efforts a violation [word indistinct] the law protecting the rights of its clients and of basic human rights.

Delegations Clarify Stance on Lockerbie

LD1810155093 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Timur [October] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Arab delegations taking part in the second round of the seminar on Arab-Chinese dialogue held in Cairo from the 12th until the [date indistinct] of al-Timur where latest developments of the Lockerbie case were discussed, would like to clarify the following facts to the people of our Arab nation, to world public opinion and all peace and justice loving peoples. 1) The Great Jamahiriyah [word indistinct], throughout this crisis that it was acting in a reasonable and levelheaded manner in order to seek a peaceful resolution to this crisis, while preserving the Great Jamahiriyah's political rights towards its citizens and in order to allow for the trial of the suspects in the Lockerbie case to be tried in a neutral country. It also agreed to accept the oucome of the (?trial and) any other related matter. 2) The three Western countries, until now, have rejected the peaceful option to solve this crisis and have insisted that the two Libyan suspects be tried in one of their courts without guarantees for a fair and impartial trial. This attitude aroused the suspicions of the international group of lawyers which are representing the two men. 3) The Arab delegations taking part in the seminar, arising from the aforementioned, do express their solidarity with and stand alongside the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in their just cause and call on all peace and justice loving peoples to stand with the Great Jamahiriyah in this just cause. Finally, the delegations call for the lifting of the harsh sanctions imposed on this friendly Libyan people.

Gulf State Envoys Summoned on Israeli Contacts

LD1810210893 Tripoli JANA in English 1703 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Timur [October] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity held a meeting with ambassadors of Saudia, Kuwait and Arab Emirates accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah to brief them about the Western media coverage in respect of contacts between officials from the Gulf and Zionist officials which constitutes a violation for Arab conventions, resolutions and firm policies based on such conventions. Such contacts are also considered as undermining for the martyrs who fell over the years in the sake of Palestine and the Arab nation.

The secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity wishes to alert to the dangers of such conduct and alerts from its negative repercussions on the higher interests of the Arab nation which are threatened by the weapons of mass destruction...atomic, chemical, biological and the Zionist military arsenal which threatens with its rocket missiles all Arab capitals from the ocean to the Gulf.

The secretary asked the Gulf ambassadors to convey this position to their governments.

Egyptian Information Minister Meets al-Qadhdhafi

NC1910113893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1049 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Oct (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, this morning received Safwat al-Sharif, information minister and envoy of President Husni Mubarak.

Al-Sharif told the MENA correspondent in Libya after the meeting that it was part of the continuing consultations between the Egyptian and Libyan leaders, as well as part of President Mubarak's efforts to bridge the gap in views regarding the ongoing dispute between Libya and the Western states. Al-Sharif noted that the meeting precedes President Mubarak's trip to Washington and his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton on 25 October.

Following the meeting, al-Sharif headed for Tripoli airport, where he boarded a private plane to Tripoli [as received], where he will continue his trip to Cairo.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Rwanda Envoy

LD1810205993 Tripoli JANA in English 1449 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Timur 18 [18 Oct], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has received Sagato Eli as a personal envoy of President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda.

The envoy delivered to the leader of the revolution a message from the president of Rwanda concerning bilateral relations between the two countries and the reaffirmation of Rwanda's position in the support and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah against the unfair sanctions imposed by the unwarranted Resolution 748.

Morocco

Democratic Bloc 'Frozen' Over Differences

LD1810140393 Rabat MAP in English 1221 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 18 (MAP)—Leaders of the Istiqlal Party [PI], the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP], the Party for Progress and Socialism [PPS] and the Organization for Democratic and Popular Action [OADP], forming the Koutla (Democratic Bloc) conceded Saturday at a meeting in Casablanca the existence of divergences between the PI, the USFP and the OADP on the one hand and the PPS on the other.

The statement released at the end of the meeting held at the request of the PPS concedes that the action of the Democratic Bloc has for some time been frozen and that coordination was mainly taking place in the frame of the national commission supervising the elections.

On the carrying on of coordination within the parliament, the leaders of the PI, the USFP and the OADP noted the existence of divergences between the three parties and the PPS at the level of several political positions and concrete actions, mainly concerning participation in the government.

The leaders of the Koutla parties agreed to 'endeavor to relaunch the democratic action with all its components before the end of the ongoing political process.'

King Receives Spanish Foreign Minister

LD1810195293 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, along with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, chaired a Council of Ministers meeting at the Throne Hall of Rabat Royal Palace this afternoon.

Afterwards, His Majesty King Hassan, who was flanked by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, received at the Royal Office Javier Solana, Spanish minister of foreign affairs.

This audience was attended by Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; Joachim Ortega, Spain's ambassador in Rabat; and Ben Ali Bouchta, his majesty's ambassador in Madrid.

Sudan

TNA Speaker Lauds Role of Parliament

EA1810164993 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has said that the next parliamentary session will witness the completion of the political structure and the provision of security, as well as the release of parliamentary diplomacy [as heard]. He said this in a wide-ranging speech today on the occasion of the opening of the assembly's third session.

Khalifah reviewed the recent constitutional developments in the country. He said the TNA had assumed for the first time the jurisdiction of assenting to constitutional decrees like the dissolution of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the appointment of a president of the Republic. The TNA speaker said the assembly had succeeded, again for the first time in the history of assemblies in the country, in exercising its constitutional jurisdiction by amending temporary and presidential decrees and applying essential amendments to the draft general budget.

On peace efforts, his excellency said the TNA had confirmed its firm support for the government's peace program and the impartial and fair solutions included in that program as reflected in the application of decentralization.

Khalifah said during the past phase the TNA had followed the stages of constructing the political system up to the level of governorates, in addition to the setting up of the sectoral establishments.

It had also followed the application of federal rule and the strengthening of local government councils. His excellency also spoke about the TNA role in supporting the policies of economic liberalization, the passing of the newspapers and publications act, and the alleviation of the cost of living.

In his speech Mr. Muhammad Khalifah also touched on the assembly's activities during the recess, pointing out that its recess was not of the traditional type during which activities cease. The recess period had witnessed the emergence of a unique cohesiveness between the legislative institution and the executive in taking charge of national action programs both at home and abroad. In this regard, he referred to the assembly's participation in the extraordinary session of the Arab Parliamentary Union, in the 90th Conference of the International Parliamentary Union in Australia, and the African Parliamentary Union meeting in Tunisia.

He said the current TNA session would witness parliamentary activity designed to strengthen diplomatic and parliamentary moves in the Arab arena to restore Arab solidarity and to clear the air.

Foreign Minister Meets With U.S. Ambassador

EA1510163193 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 15 Oct (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Husayn Abu Salih received U.S. Ambassador to Khartoum Donald Peterson on 14 October. The meeting dealt with Sudan's participation in the work of the UN General Assembly in recent sessions in New York and meetings that took place with the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs. The two sides affirmed the need to start a serious dialogue between the two governments, so as to reach a formula of better understanding and to discuss issues of common concern. [passage omitted]

3 New Camps Opened for Training 'Extremists'

NC1510163893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Oct 93 p 9

[Text] The Sudanese Government recently opened three new camps for training Eritrean, Ethiopian, and Djibouti extremists. One camp is in Kassab, another in Umm Dabakir, and the third is in Fattashah to the northwest of Omdurman. These extremists are brought from refugee centers in (al-Shawk) and (Shurayfi) in eastern Sudan.

Until recently, the man in charge of these camps was Brigadier General Kamal 'Ali Mukhtar. He was recently killed in an airplane crash in southern Sudan. Currently Brig. Gen. al-Fatih 'Urwah is in charge of the camps. National Islamic Front members assist with the ideological indoctrination of the trainees, who will then be sent back to their own countries to destabilize them and seize power there.

Iran is financing these training activities via its Khartoum Embassy.

Organization Supports Libya on Lockerbie Issue

EA1510172293 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Oct (SUNA)—The Sudanese People's Organization for the Support of the Libyan Jamahiriyah held a meeting here yesterday under the chairmanship of Dr. Mustafa Uthman Isma'il, secretary general of the International People's Friendship Council [IPFC]. The meeting discussed the basic axes [as received] and continuation of support for the brotherly Libyan people in their just case over Lockerbie. The meeting issued several resolutions concerning this.

It is worth pointing out that the people's organization was established in March 1992 within the context of the IPFC's efforts at cementing and consolidating the bonds of love and peace between the Sudanese people and the peoples of the entire world.

Kuwait

Iranian Envoy Denies Breaking Iraq Embargo

LD1710160893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 17 October, KUNA—Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi-Chahardangeh today stressed that his country was abiding by the international embargo against Iraq.

In an interview with KUNA, Sadeqi denied repeated reports that Iran had broken the economic embargo imposed on Iraq because of the latter's failure to comply with UN Security Council resolutions related to the war to liberate Kuwait.

Speaking after a meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Sadeqi described these reports as "false and incorrect." [passage omitted]

With regard to reports that a senior Iranian official intended to visit Baghdad today, Sadeqi said "that he did not have any detailed information about this." [passage omitted]

On his part, Foreign Minister Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al- Shahin emphasized the importance of developing Kuwaiti-Iranian relations.

Al-Shahin said: "As long as two countries are neighbors and have numerous common interests, it is inevitable that there should be issues that always call for frank discussion in order to find solutions to them." [passage omitted]

Al-Shahin stressed the two sides' mutual agreement on finding solutions to the issues discussed during the meeting.

Al-Shahin disclosed that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs intended to arrange a meeting between Kuwaiti coast guards and their Iranian counterparts in order to agree on a means of preventing violations of the two countries' regional waters. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Leaves on Visit to France

LD1810085593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0640 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Oct (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah has left for France on an official visit during which he is expected to sign an agreement between the Kuwaiti and French Governments covering the purchase of military weapons and equipment.

During his two-day visit Shaykh 'Ali will meet with his French counterpart Francois Leotard and hold official talks on developing military cooperation between the two countries.

The defense minister said in a statement to KUNA that his visit is part of the exchange of visits between the two countries to discuss common issues, as well as signing the cooperation agreement between the Kuwaiti and French governments on the purchase of military weapons and equipment. He also said that the visit includes holding talks with French officials on the new developments in the Arabian Gulf, the issue of the prisoners of war, demarcation of the border and the border encroachments by the Iraqi regime, and providing a clear picture about them.

The defense minister affirmed that the international community is vigilant and wary of the allegations spread by the Iraqi regime now and then and that these claims are no more than false allegations against Kuwait.

The defense minister was seen off by Chief of the General Staff of the Army Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, Ministry of Defense Undersecretary Faysal al-Dawud, and a number of senior Armed Forces officers. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Visit

WA1910130093

For reportage on the visit to France by Defense Minister 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, including reports on his meeting with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, see the French section of the 19 October and subsequent issues of the West Europe DAILY REPORT.

State Security Deputy Director Resigns

PM1410141893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Hamad al-Jasir: "Kuwait: Disagreement With Interior Ministry Leads to Resignation of State Security Deputy Director]

[Text] Kuwait—Well-informed sources in Kuwait said yesterday that Shaykh Salman Sabah al-Salim al-Hamud al-Sabah, deputy director of the Kuwaiti State Security Directorate, recently submitted his resignation, which was accepted.

The sources pointed out that a disagreement took place between Shaykh Salman on the one hand and the State Security Directorate and the Interior Ministry on the other over the working method pursued in this sensitive security organ. This disagreement was behind the resignation.

Shaykh Salman submitted his resignation directly to Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

Shaykh Salman held this post for about five years and participated in the efforts to restart and organize the state security organ after the catastrophe of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. After the end of the occupation, the organ was entrusted with foiling Iraqi subversive actions and the Iraqi regime's attempts to carry out espionage

and terrorist actions in Kuwait. The State Security Directorate's most famous task was the arrest of 17 Iraqis and Kuwaitis accused of planning to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush by means of a booby-trapped car during his visit to Kuwait in April.

The Kuwaiti state security organ is currently headed by Major General Fahd Ahmad al-Fahd. Kuwaiti National Assembly deputies have repeatedly criticized some of the practices of state security men in Kuwait, demanding that there be effective control over the organ's actions so as to be in line with the laws and powers granted to the security organs by the Constitution.

Iraqi Troops Fire on Border Post; No Casualties

NC1810211893 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Oct 18 (AFP)—Iraqi troops fired at a Kuwaiti border post overnight Sunday [17 October] and Kuwaiti troops returned fire, an Interior Ministry spokesman said here Monday.

The shots fired at the al-Mazari' border post did not cause any casualties, the spokesman quoted by the official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said.

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamad al-Jabir al-Sabah has said the Kuwaiti forces have instructions to "retaliate against any Iraqi shooting."

Kuwaiti authorities say Iraqi troops regularly shoot at Kuwaiti border posts.

Iraq has not recognised the new border fixed by the United Nations after the 1991 Gulf war, which gives Kuwait an extra strip of land 600 meters (yards) wide.

Army Denies Report on Explosion at U.S. Army Base

LD1610175293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Oct KUNA—The Kuwaiti Army Directorate of Morale Guidance and Public Relations has today denied here that an explosion took place at the U.S. forces' camp in the al-Dawhah area. The Directorate of Morale Guidance and Public Relations in a statement received by KUNA, said that the explosion took place at the al-Idayri' firing range when the U.S. forces were cleansing the range following firing exercises, and not at the al-Dawhah camp, as reported today.

A local newspaper has today published a report to the effect that four U.S. soldiers were injured as a result of an explosion which took place at the U.S. forces al-Dawhah camp. The paper said that the injury sustained by one of the soldiers was serious, as his left hand was amputated as a result of the explosion, and that the doctors amputated his left leg when it was determined it could not be saved.

Afghan President Arrives on Official Visit

LD1610105193 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation arrived this morning on a three-day official visit to the country. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir

LD1710093493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait 17 Oct KUNA— Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani this morning had a meeting with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Bilateral relations and ways to develop them and issues of common interest were discussed. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Interviewed on Current Issues

LD1910132993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0856 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait 19 Oct (KUNA)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, in a statement to the press here today, thanked Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for their role in mustering support for the Afghan people during the Soviet occupation and for their help in the current rebuilding efforts.

Rabbani, in an interview with AL-SIYASAH, rejected the label of terrorists thrown at the Afghan mojahedin, asserting that they have been against terrorism for the last 14 years. They could have resorted to other methods, like hijacking aircraft and assassinating members of the communist Afghan Government had they so wished, he added.

As for the accusation that Afghanistan has been helping extremist elements in Egypt, President Rabbani stated that Afghanistan is against terrorism and had no links whatsoever with such elements or with Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman, adding, however: "We are prepared to consider 'Abd al-Rahman's request for political asylum." Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman is currently indicted in the United States on a number of charges involving terrorism.

Asked about the extent of Iran's influence in Afghanistan, the Afghan president asserted that his country would welcome any assistance from any neighboring country "as long as there are no strings attached." He pointed out that Afghanistan has Shiite and Sunni communities, but the existence of more than one denomination should not mean there is a divide along denominational lines.

Rabbani pointed out, furthermore, that there is no difference between himself and Hekmatyar with regard to the need to hold free elections, saying that he welcomes the holding of such elections "at any time through the ballot box or through consultation between influential people."

Rabbani, Delegation Depart

LD1810161793 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] At 1000 hours this morning, President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, His Excellency Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, and accompanying delegation left Kuwait international airport after a 3-day official visit to the country. [passage omitted]

Official Views Normalization of Ties With Israel

TA1510081793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the conference on refugees in Tunis told IDF Radio that it is too early to talk about normalization between Israel and the Arab countries. In the first interview ever granted by an official Kuwaiti figure to Israeli media, the head of the Kuwaiti delegation said that the decision about normalization will be unanimous and will be made by the Arab League in accordance with the new conditions to be created in the future. Eldad Beck, our special envoy in Tunis, reports:

[Begin Beck recording] The speed with which the head of the Kuwaiti delegation agreed to talk to us is yet further evidence of the new era opened by the Oslo agreement, an era that was very evident in the positive atmosphere that prevailed in the conference on refugees in Tunis. The Kuwaiti man refused to tell how his country and the other Gulf states intend to help solve the refugee problem. The Arab countries participating in the peace process act in accordance with the UN resolutions and seek their implementation, he said.

We support the peace process and the meeting of the committee on refugees in Tunis, he added. We insist on our demand that the Palestinian refugees return to their homes in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 194. I asked him: Do you perceive the gestures regarding family reunifications and the deportees announced by Israel as a serious signal of its intentions? There is no doubt, he said, that the meetings between the sides in the context of the peace conference will lead to a satisfactory outcome: the return of the refugees to their homes. We, as well as the rest of the Arab delegations, are participating in the process to find a just peace plan for the Palestinian people. This is the reason for the meeting. God willing, this process will bear just and comprehensive results.

And what about normalization with Israel, I asked him. Discussion of the issue has been premature, the Kuwaiti official said. It is not the decision of this or that Arab country but of the Arab League. This decision will be made through consensus and in accordance with the new conditions and circumstances. [end recording]

Oman

Official Confers With Christopher in Washington

JN1610102093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0520 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 15 Oct (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met today with Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who is currently on a visit to Washington. The OMANI NEWS AGENCY said that they discussed bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual concern. The news agency added that the Omani minister reaffirmed to the U.S. secretary his country's keenness to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and friendship.

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive for Talks

LD1810202193 Riyadh SPA in English 1948 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 18, SPA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here tonight to lead his country's delegation to the fourth session of the joint Saudi-Syrian Commission.

On arrival, he was greeted by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammad 'Aba al-Khail and Syrian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia 'Umar al-Sayyed and senior officials.

The Syrian foreign minister is accompanied by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, the minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. Khaled al-Mahayini, the minister of finance; and Muhammad Ghassan Halabi, the minister of education.

Al-Shar' Comments on Arrival

JN1910082693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Riyadh—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed Syria's desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This came in a statement to AFP upon his arrival yesterday in Riyadh, where he will take part in the meetings of the Syrian-Saudi joint committee beginning today. Al-Shar' added that the steps that have been achieved so far in the peace process should be a motivation to achieve a comprehensive settlement and a just peace in the region, because it would be in the interest of its security and stability.

Al-Shar' added that continuing the peace process is a matter that concerns Syria, Saudi Arabia, and all Arab countries. He said that his talks with Saudi officials will deal with the situation in the region and the peace process.

Al-Shar' and his accompanying delegation arrived in Riyadh yesterday and were received by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Further al-Shar' Remarks

LD1910112993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Riyadh 18 Oct (SPA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' has asserted that the meetings of the Saudi-Syrian joint committee, due to start in Riyadh tomorrow, will be an opportunity to discuss all topics of mutual interest to both countries in the political, economic, cultural, scientific and technical spheres.

On his arrival in Riyadh this evening to chair his country's delegation to the meetings of the Saudi-Syrian joint committee, he pointed out that the aforementioned topics represent the breadth of the cooperation between the Kingdom and Syria within the framework of their joint committee.

He added, however, that some topics will be examined in more detail given the current developments in the region and in the world.

Touching on Saudi-Syrian coordination on political issues in the Middle East, Faruq al-Shar' asserted: "We believe that the two countries have one stance, i.e., we are both eager to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace."

"The problem of following up the peace process in the region is of concern to both countries, the Kingdom and Syria, as well as the other Arab countries. What has been achieved so far should be taken as an incentive to affirm the need for a comprehensive settlement and a just peace that are in the interests of the region's security and stability," he said.

Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

LD1910125493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1117 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Riyadh 19 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, conferred at the Conferences Hall in Riyadh at noon today with the His Excellency Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is chairing his country's delegation to the meetings of the Saudi-Syrian joint committee. The joint committee opened its proceedings earlier today. The ministerial meeting offered the opportunity for the examination of a number of topics of mutual interest.

French President Mitterrand Pays Brief Visit

LD1510184393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 15 Oct (SPA)—His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, the president of France, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed at the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted] Following a rest at the airport lounge King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, hosted a luncheon in honor of His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted].

The custodian of the two holy mosques had talks with his great guest, His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand, on a number of issues relating to the current situation in the Arab and international arenas, and everything that serves the region's peace, safety, and stability. His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand left Jeddah this afternoon following a brief visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Border Talks With Yemen To Resume 25 Oct

LD1710191293 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] An official source has stated that the Saudi side in the joint Saudi-Yemeni experts commission on borders had previously proposed the postponement of the sixth round of talks due to be held in Riyadh on Saturday, 9 October 1993, and for the talks to be resumed at a later date.

Out of a desire to resume these talks, agreement has been reached with the Yemeni side to hold the sixth round of talks in Riyadh on Monday, 25 October 1993.

United Arab Emirates

PLO Delegation Briefs Leaders on Peace Accord

NC1810121093 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 18 (AFP)—A high-level PLO delegation has arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to brief its leaders on the autonomy agreement with Israel, the official UAE news agency WAM reported on Monday [18 October].

Mahmud 'Abbas, who signed the agreement at the White House on September 13, arrived late Sunday at the head of a five-man delegation, the largest Palestine Liberation Organisation mission to come to the Emirates since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

WAM said 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, who visited the Emirates three months ago, met UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on Monday and discussed developments in the Arab world since the signing of the accord.

It said Shaykh Zayid, 76, reaffirmed support for the agreement "to achieve the hoped for Arab and Palestinian objectives and interests."

"The president also expressed the hope that the agreement would be a step in the right direction," it said.

It was not immediately clear whether 'Abbas, code-named Abu-Mazin, would visit other Gulf states, which have ostracised the PLO for siding with Iraq when its forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Palestinian sources said 'Abbas would likely discuss a visit by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the UAE. But they had no information when 'Arafat, who made a brief stopover at Abu Dhabi airport last month, would come.

Oil-rich Gulf states, the main financial backers of the PLO, have pledged to contribute to an international aid package to help Palestinians build their autonomous economy in Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho under the self-rule accord, which took effect on October 13.

The PLO has set up its first commercial office in the UAE emirate of Dubayy and plans to open centres in other Arab countries to boost exports and attract investment.

Shaykh Zayid Affirms Support

JN1810191693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today received PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin.

During the meeting, they reviewed the latest Arab developments, particularly in the aftermath of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and the Middle East peace process.

The UAE president affirmed his country's support for this agreement to realize Arab and Palestinian objectives and promote Palestinian and Arab interests. He expressed the hope that this agreement will be a proper step along the right path.

Yemen

France's Mitterrand Arrives on Two-Day Visit

JN1810183093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] At 1730 today, His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand arrived in Sanaa at the head of a high-level delegation on a two-day visit to our country at the invitation of brother Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. During the visit, the French president will hold talks with the brother president and Yemeni officials on the friendly bilateral ties.

When he disembarked from his plane, the guest president shook hands with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as he was accorded a 21-gun salute. Afterward, the brother president introduced to the guest president the senior officials who were on hand at the airport to welcome him. These were: Presidential Council members 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Salim Salih Muhammad, and 'Abd-al-Majid 'Aziz al-Zandani; House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar; Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas; Second Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki; and Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of industry, and head of the escort mission accompanying the French president. The French president then introduced to the brother president the senior officials accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Salih, Mitterrand Begin Talks

JN1810205693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Yemeni delegation led by Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the French delegation led by French President Francois Mitterrand held an official round of talks in Sanaa this evening in the presence of Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

At the beginning of the talks, the Presidential Council chairman welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand, pointing out that Mitterrand's visit to our country constitutes a landmark in cooperation and friendship between our country and France, that it will reinforce the traditional friendly relations, and that it will promote areas of fruitful cooperation in order to achieve the mutual interests of the two friendly peoples. He affirmed that there are many opportunities for promoting joint cooperation and the exchange of benefits between the two countries. He also praised France's support for democracy and development in our country, pointing out that the future will witness positive cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

For his part, the French president said he was pleased to visit our country, acquaint himself with its cultural and construction activity, and hold talks with the president and officials of our country on issues and developments in relations between the two friendly countries. He also praised the democratic climate in our country, stressing the French Republic's support for that policy.

The two sides also discussed aspects of bilateral relations and areas of joint cooperation between the two countries and ways to promote them in order to foster joint interests and to exchange benefits between the two countries. They also discussed many developments [words indistinct] foremost of which are Middle East peace efforts, developments in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia, and the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Salih, Mitterrand Address Reception

JN1910093193 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, held a reception yesterday evening in honor of Yemen's guest, French President Francois Mitterrand, and his accompanying delegation.

The reception was attended by brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Salim Salih Muhammad, 'Abd-al-Majid 'Aziz al-Zandani, members of the Presidential Council; Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister; Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of industry, director of the General Investment Corporation, and chief of the escort mission accompanying the French president. Also attending were the deputies prime minister; ministers; members of the House of Representatives' speaker's office, the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party, the General People's Congress, and the Higher Commission of the Yemeni Reform Grouping; leaders of political parties and organizations; Armed Forces and security commanders; and social figures.

During the reception, the two presidents exchanged cordial speeches. Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih welcomed—in his name and on behalf of the members of the Presidential Council, the government, political parties and organizations, and heads of parliamentary blocs—the French president and his delegation among their friends in our country.

He added: It gives me great pleasure to welcome Yemen's dear guest, His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand, to the country of history, civilization, culture, and modernization. He asserted that the visit will enhance cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He went on: Our talks were cordial, and views on many issues were largely identical regarding the issues in the region, the Horn of Africa, and international issues. He pointed out that the talks on bilateral relations were positive and excellent.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council recalled the visit he made to France in 1984 and the talks he held with President Francois Mitterrand on Yemeni-French cooperation. He said: His Excellency President Francois Mitterrand told me of France's readiness to establish cooperation and support the Republic of Yemen in all fields, particularly in oil and gas. He pointed out that there are two French companies drilling for oil, and that these two companies receive full support and care from the Yemeni Government.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council added: We also discussed the march of unity and democracy in our country. Unity was realized in a democratic, peaceful manner on 20 May 1990. We have the support of all of our brothers in Europe, particularly France. I was informed about this during my meeting with President Mitterrand during my 1990 visit to France on my way back from the United States. There was full support for Yemeni reunification in a peaceful, democratic climate.

He went on: The most important achievement in the history of the Republic of Yemen was the 27 April election of a House of Representatives to represent the Yemeni nation. The House of Representatives has 310 deputies. There was strong competition between all political parties and organization that ran in the elections. There were 17 political parties. The elections succeeded peacefully despite the wagers of the enemies of unity and democracy.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council said democracy is the only option for our country, stressing that a government coalition was formed from the three major, active parties: The General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping.

Concluding, brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih again welcomed the French president and his delegation, in his name and on behalf of the Yemeni people. He wished them a pleasant stay among their friends in Yemen and expressed hope for greater cooperation between the two friendly countries on all levels.

For his part, President Francois Mitterrand expressed happiness over his visit to our country, saying: My presence here embodies our friendship. I meet with you for the second time in your country, which is famous for its beautiful landscape, heritage, and ancient history that dates back for more than 2,000 years.

He added: As you know, the French take pride in belonging to an ancient nation in Europe, which is rich in its traditions and cultural heritage. Yemen's history and ruins also date back to the early epochs in the history of mankind. The early activity of the Arab world started from ancient Yemen. In other words, you represent a country that takes pride in being a country of great origins. When one visits Yemen, one goes back to the fountains of humanity. He pointed out the expeditions by European and French travelers to Yemen during the 18th century and the stories they related after their journeys.

The French president went on: Let the history you are making, along the path of unity and democracy, remain before your eyes. We think that unity is an element of balance, stability, and development for the entire region.

He explained that unity and democracy in Yemen are evidence of political maturity, adding: I am hopeful that you will continue this march. I encourage you to do so, and I hope this will happen in a calm atmosphere that pleases everybody. He said democracy is the safest, if not the easiest, road.

The French president added: There are many things that we can do together on the level of cultural and economic

relations and development. He stressed his country's determination to pursue and develop these relations. He also expressed satisfaction with the close views of the two friendly countries on various issues, in addition to developments in the Horn of Africa, Palestine, and other international problems.

He added: Our identical views stem from the desire of the two countries for peace. He noted the recent agreement between Israel and the PLO, saying: We are familiar with your role, which seeks moderation, and I hope you will continue to play this role. We appreciate this role. We assert France's support for this agreement politically and diplomatically until it becomes concrete reality.

Concluding, he wished Yemeni-French friendship greater progress and the brother president, the attendees, and the Yemeni people happiness and prosperity.

Salih, Mitterrand Hold Further Talks

JN1910130293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the chairman of the Presidential Council, and His Excellency French President Francois Mitterrand this morning held a closed session at the Presidential Palace.

The Yemeni news agency SABA' has learned that the two presidents discussed bilateral relations and cooperation and ways of enhancing them. They also discussed regional and international issues, primarily the Middle East peace process, developments in the Horn of Africa, and UN efforts in Somalia, as well as issues of mutual interest.

Council Decides al-'Attas Government To Stay in Office

JN1810145093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Presidential Council today met under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to discuss several issues and developments in the national arena that concern efforts to strengthen the national structure and move to a new phase, which meets the national aspirations to build the modern Yemeni state, the state of institutions, law and order, and entrenching its achievements, particularly unity and democracy.

In its session today, the Presidential Council decided that the current government of brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas should continue in office according to its [word indistinct] program which it presented to the House of Representatives and won the (?House's) confidence on its basis.

The Council also endorsed several agreements which were ratified by the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

Salih Addresses Nation on Revolution Anniversary

JN1410180093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Oct 93

["Important national speech" by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, on the 30th anniversary of the 14 October revolution, on 13 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God from whom we seek assistance. God's peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad.

Brother free citizens in the homeland and wherever you may be: Amid our people's celebrations and joy over the immortal Yemeni revolution's anniversary, I am pleased to greet you in my name, and on behalf of the brother members of the Presidential Council. I extend to you a greeting of the victories of liberty, democracy, and unity.

[Words indistinct] today on the 30th anniversary of the glorious 14 October revolution, whose first spark was launched from the lofty [words indistinct] to overcome the darkness of colonialism. Guided by the revolution's light, our sons launched an armed struggle against the colonialist for more than four years, during which many sacrifices were made along the path of freedom and independence. The colonialist's departure from our pure Yemeni land was a great victory linked to another victory over the despotic imamate regime, which was scored by our people on 26 September 1962.

Our people thus launched a new march, transforming [word indistinct] the course of national struggle. [Words indistinct] pictures of heroism and sacrifices and the great feats of the martyrs of the national movement, the war of liberation, and the battles in defense of the revolution and the republic.

The Yemeni revolution is the [words indistinct]. There were many other revolutions in this century. Every nation either revolted against a [word indistinct] regime or colonialist power. However, our people were destined to launch a revolution against the imamate regime and colonialism together. As the enemies tried hard to (?stay) and attempted to abort the revolution, God decreed that the Yemeni September-October revolution would achieve victory and that its banner would fly high all over Yemen.

Esteemed sons of our people, the unity of the revolution—26 September and 14 October—has been renewed in the continuation of its victories, and it asserted itself by defeating the enemies and forcing the colonialist out on 30 November [year indistinct]. The valiant [words indistinct] which remained a station for the most covetous colonialists, at a time when the enemies of the revolution gained strength and besieged the capital, Sanaa, for 70 days. However, a number of men who kept their pledge to God defeated the siege in an immortal heroic epic, during which our people offered up a group of righteous martyrs.

From the unity of the revolution and the struggle of the people [word indistinct] its immortal unity—of land and man—national struggle continued to crown its great victory on 22 May 1990 when Yemeni unity was achieved. The unity rectified the course of history and made the homeland immune to fragmentation and [word indistinct] and united all the forces of the people, so they can continue their efforts to achieve all their objectives and ambitions and stand in the face of the challenges of making social, economic, and cultural changes under the banner of the Yemeni revolution.

The unity was not only a national miracle worked on Yemeni soil; it was also an achievement [words indistinct] and a life boat in the merciless flood that swept through many nations in the world. Along with unity came democracy and party and political pluralism as a cultural achievement for the Yemeni state, so the people can exercise their right to rule themselves by themselves through a commitment to peaceful succession of power and bolstering constitutional legitimacy in all agencies of the state and the community.

Loyal brother citizens, as the people went about making the victory of unity and reaffirming their commitment to the democratic choice, they were entitled to be reassured about their present and future and look forward to the realization of all their ambitions. However, the united state had to grapple with a host of challenges and difficulties during the interim period. Despite successful legislative elections on 27 April 1993, the people are still beset by the same chailenges and difficulties, with each of the political forces seeking to impose its agenda, which, in the meantime, is having a deleterious effect on the state institutions. Each party depended on forming political stands and resorting to political negotiations that should have come to a halt on that bright, historic, and immortal day that produced a coalition government experience among the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. It should have opened the field wide before a true national opposition shouldering its responsibility and fulfilling its role in the process of national construction in the interest of ending the trend of combining public office and opposition.

[Words indistinct] derive from our concern for sound national action, be it in or out of office, since unity is the fate and destiny of our people, who have made huge sacrifices and braved all kinds of storms and challenges toward its attainment [words indistinct] the enemies of unity and democracy. [Words indistinct] that the people championed at the ballot boxes must assume their historic responsibilites and prove faithful to the will of the people and committed to all that is agreed upon to advance the supreme national interests.

Free brother citizens, the history that began to move in the right direction on 22 May 1990 cannot be diverted from its course or stopped. The people will protect and defend it and go on from victory to victory in all areas of economic construction and social change and cultural advancement, God willing.

In the years since that date, political action has advanced through democratic practices, political pluralism, and freedom of expression, yet, as we move forward, we need to firm up the foundations of our economic infrastructure on which the fulfillment of the needs of the citizenry depend, since these are the true mediums of expression for [word indistinct] and freedom of the individual and the vigor of the society so that the state's various agencies may devote their attention to the sovereign and strategic (?tasks) and [word indistinct] legitimate institutions without bypassing them, and security and stability, justice, and easing the burden shouldered by the citizens.

On this occasion, we hope that the legislature will fulfill its responsibility in full, and perform its legislative duties and oversight of the executive powers and their various agencies so that no loophole is left to be exploited by unscrupulous and selfish persoes.

Whoever fails to respect law and order or to take care of public money is unlikely to treat the homeland and the people with due respect. The government must be alert to its responsibilities by redressing the imbalances and addressing the shortcomings in the various sectors of the state system. The official monitoring agencies must also play their role in uncovering offenses and all the manifestations of corruption and bribery, and make sure that the culprits—no matter who they are—are brought to justice.

Free brother citizens, once again, please accept my congratulations on this occasion wherever you are, at all sites of work and production. Through you, I send my sincerest greetings to the heroic personnel of the Armed and Security Forces in all the locations of martyrdom, sacrifice, and security, and the fields of preparation and training, who have an admirable track record of heroism on behalf of the will of our people seeking revolution, freedom, independence, and unity. The valiant and national armed and police forces will remain a symbol for national unity and must remain insulated and isolated from political struggles between political parties, since they are the property of the people [words indistinct] the homeland the protectors of the constitutional legitimacy. They are a safety valve for the stability, unity, independence, and the democratic march of the homeland.

I beseech Almighty God to grant us help and success and to guide the steps of all of us to what is best for the homeland and the well-being and advancement of the people. We beseech Almighty God to have mercy on the souls of all the martyrs of the revolution and republic. Wishing you a happy return of this occasion. May you enjoy the peace and mercy of God.

Talks With Iranian Delegation Start in Baghdad

JN1810160493 Baghdad INA in English 1357 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 18, INA—Iraqi-Iranian talks started today in the Foreign Ministry.

The Iraqi delegation was headed by Mr Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, the senior undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, while the Iranian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The Iranian official arrived here yesterday accompanied by a delegation of senior officials in the Foreign Ministry on a several-day visit to Iraq.

INA learned that the talks between the two sides would be preparatory talks for the meetings of the foreign ministers of the two countries in Baghdad to solve standing problems between Iraq and Iran, mainly the release of the Iraqi Prisoners of War (PoWs) being held by the Iranian side.

Iranians Present New POW Proposals

NC1910143193 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 19 (AFP)—Iran said Tuesday [19 October] it had presented new proposals to resolve the issue of prisoners-of-war held since the Iran-Iraq war.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, on the first visit to Baghdad by a senior Tehran official since the 1991 Gulf War, told AFP Iran was "suggesting many things to resolve these humanitarian problems once and for all, and put the issue of prisoners-of-war to rest." Zarif did not explain what the proposals were.

Iraq says that it has released all Iranian POWs but that 20,000 Iraqi soldiers are still held in Iran. Tehran says that 5,000 Iranian POWs are still imprisoned in Iraq.

Zarif, who arrived in Baghdad Sunday, held talks with foreign ministry under secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal and was to meet Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf later Tuesday.

Referring to the POW question Zarif said: "Let us see if we can move forward on that issue. We hope we can." The minister's visit ends Thursday.

Zarif said on arrival that Tehran was seeking the "full implementation" of U.N. Security Council resolution 598 that ended eight years of war with Iraq in 1988. It provides among other things for the release and the repatriation of POWs.

Iranian officials said Zarif and al-Faysal also discussed the question of Iraqi civilian jets flown to Iran for safety during the Gulf War.

Baghdad says 148 Iraqi planes, including 33 civilian airliners, are grounded in Iran, while Tehran maintains that it has only 22 Iraqi planes on its soil.

Iraqi Airways chief Nu al-Din al-Safi has said he will raise the question of maintaining the planes with his Iranian counterpart at a civil aviation conference planned for October 25 in Dallas.

Al-Faysal would head a delegation to Tehran in future for further talks on Iranian-Iraqi relations, Iranian officials said.

Newspapers Criticize U.S. Behavior in Somalia, Haiti

Washington's 'Predicament' Examined

JN1910090393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—In an editorial today, AL-QADISIYAH says that the steadfastness of the heroic Iraqis in the face of brute aggression, the steadfastness of the starved Somalis in the face of the hateful invasion, and the Haitians' rejection of Washington's will and embargo threats have all had a profound effect, prompting Clinton to admit that he has learned a lesson from his experience in Somalia.

The paper says that Clinton always resorts to confession when he faces a difficult situation. The U.S. predicament in Somalia is not an easy one. The paper refers to Clinton's statement to THE WASHINGTON POST that he has learned the lesson of the U.S. experience in Somalia.

The paper adds: It seems that Clinton can no longer endure the heavy burden resulting from several blows by other nations and their growing opposition to the new colonialism.

The paper wonders: Has Clinton really learned the lesson and admitted it? Or is he saying this only to maneuver, catch his breath, and adopt other methods to launch new attacks on other nations and pursue U.S. hegemony?

Concluding its article, the paper stresses that Iraq's shining model of jihad is now an example to all strugglers in the world. The darkness of tyrants will disappear and a glowing sun will rise.

Haiti Action 'Loss of Conscience'

JN1910101593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—BABIL newspaper asks: How can American public opinion conceive of the idea of imposing democracy by force? And how can U.S. congressmen, journalists, and experts accept the justification and right to interfere in deciding who rules in another country? In an article today, BABIL says that U.S. warships are now deployed around Haiti following the imposition of an economic and military embargo under the pretext of returning its ousted president and imposing democracy by force. All the Haitians stood up against America and shouted slogans calling for its fall.

BABIL criticizes the world's silence about what is taking place while it watches on television the overwhelming majority of Haitians expressing their rancor at America and strong rejection of the imposition of democracy by the force of warships. The paper adds: Have the Arabs become mentally retarded? Has the West lost its mind? And have decisionmakers turned into creatures without sense, balance, or reason about what is happening there?

The paper adds that America now is giving the worst example of the lowliness of certain people whose brains work on one frequency only—killing and plundering others under the pretext of defending and protecting them.

Concluding its article, BABIL says: Isn't this American behavior in Haiti a reiteration of the deterioration of America's position, since the fall of empires begins with decisionmakers' loss of conscience?

Lost Credibility in World Affairs Seen

JN1810100793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has held the administration of President Clinton responsible for the U.S. involvement in foreign affairs and crises. It says his actions are contrary to the lustrous slogans and promises he made during his election campaign when he said he would focus on internal affairs and tackle the issues of unemployment and economic depression.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, comments on the U.S. conduct in Iraq, Somalia, Grenada and Panama, where brutal force was used indiscriminately. This force wants to impose its will on others at any cost. The U.S. acts of aggression and terrorism against peoples have only met with disgrace and history's curse, the paper adds.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Clinton administration has lost its credibility and reputation both inside the United States and worldwide, especially since it persists in its arrogance and political madness, and insists on imposing its dictatorship on the entire international community in the name of legitimacy and human rights and under the slogan of the new world order.

The paper explains that at a time when the United States proclaims itself a trustee and protector of democracy in the international arena, and levels accusations against others, it unilaterally assesses international crises, works out solutions for them, and implements these solutions. Afterward, the United States asks the allied and other states to legitimatize and unanimously approve its aggressive conduct by issuing the necessary Security Council resolutions and joining it in the acts of invasion and aggression, such as the unfair aggression on Iraq and the invasion of Somalia.

The Iraqi lesson of confronting the U.S. tyrant and foiling its plans and objectives has become a bright beacon for all militant peoples on the path of freedom, justice, dignity, and national independence. Likewise, the Somali lesson has unequivocally proved that any people, even if unarmed and hungry, can roll the U.S arrogance in the dust, and can force the U.S. invasion forces to retreat and negotiate a withdrawal to save face.

Vice President Receives Austrian Freedom Party Team

JN1410194793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1557 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, received here today an Austrian Freedom Party delegation led by Haikar Mozart [name as received], currently visiting the country.

Taha Yasin Ramadan affirmed that under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn Iraq will remain faithful to its principles and independent policy and will. He stressed that Iraq will not yield to the aggressive colonialist policies which have failed to achieve their objectives through the use of the barbaric military force and the continued blockade.

He added that Iraq's potential is great and rich, and that Iraq's wealth above the ground is richer than its wealth under the ground. He explained that the Iraqi individual is the inheritor of ancient civilizations, sciences, and literatures. He stressed that the strength of the Iraqi people has been proven in the battlefield and in the arenas of reconstruction and progress. He indicated that the Iraqi people have defeated all arrogant, tyrannical, and aggressive forces, and that they continue to march ahead.

The vice president indicated that the current Iraqi strength and advancement herald a prosperous future and a lofty status among other peoples of the world.

Haikar Mozart affirmed that the demand for lifting the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people is a demand for the establishment of justice and implementation of international conventions. This is because, he said, the imposition of the blockade and its continuation is an unjust and hostile policy. He indicated that the Austrian Freedom Party is vigorously working in Austria and in cooperation with other European parties to lift the blockade.

He stressed his country's serious desire to promote the relations of friendship and cooperation with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to set a basis for large-scale cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Delegation Departs After Visit

JN1610110193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—An Austrian Freedom Party delegation led by Haikar Mozar [name as received] left Baghdad today following a visit of several days to the country.

In statements to the Iraqi News Agency, the delegation expressed pleasure at this visit, which was a chance to get acquainted with the true situation in Iraq after the 30-state aggression.

He praised the Iraqi people's exceptional abilities as manifested in the reconstruction campaign. He also praised the Iraqis' endurance and steadfastness in the face of the blockade. [passage omitted]

Kurds Deny Meeting with Iraqis in Brussels

NC1610182593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1705 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Iraqi Kurdish officials have categorically denied that a meeting between Iraqi government representatives and Kurdish opposition officials took place in Brussels under European mediation.

The London-based Arabic newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday quoted Dr. Latif Rashid, spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and deputy head of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, as saying these reports are groundless.

Dr. Rashid returned to London from Brussels two days ago after participating in a conference on coordinating the activity of humanitarian organizations who are giving relief aid to the Kurds which was held at the headquarters of the European Parliament in Brussels. Rashid stressed that no Iraqi official attended the conference, and none of the Kurdish government and parliament representatives who attended the conference contacted any Iraqi official.

European sources have stated that some personalities, including the wife of French President Francois Mitterrand, succeeded in arranging a meeting between Iraqi officials and Kurdish representatives on the sidelines of the Brussels conference.

For his part, Dr. Rawj Nuri Shawij, deputy prime minister of the Kurdistan Region government, who is currently in Europe at the head of a high-level government delegation to the Brussels meeting, has denied news agency reports that he held a meeting with Iraqi regime representatives.

Alluding to these reports, Shawij said he does not believe Mrs. Mitterrand is undertaking mediation of this sort. Stressing his government's determination not to dismember Iraq, Shawij said the Kurdistan people in Iraq believe in a peaceful solution in Iraq through the establishment of a federal Iraqi republic in which the Kurdish people will enjoy full national rights and live in peace and coexistence with their brotherly Arab people in Iraq. This means we are not working to dismember Iraq or to secede from it.

On the lifting of the international blockade, Shawij said: We hope that the lifting of the international blockade will be contingent on democratic changes in Iraq and on respect for the rights of the Kurdish people in Iraq.

Opposition Split on Ties With Regime

PM1910091693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 93 p 4

["Iraqi Opposition Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Kurds Split on Baghdad, Iranian Pressures Pushing Them Toward Reconciliation"—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT headline]

[Text] Brussels—An Iraqi opposition source who participated in the recent meeting organized by the Kurdish government in north Iraq emphasized yesterday that [reports of] secret negotiations in Brussels between Iraqi Kurds and the central authority in Baghdad are not without truth, as some official Kurdish quarters have said. And that the Kurdish opposition is split in this connection; a section of it will negotiate with Baghdad to let bygones be bygones, hence allowing it to resume its activities in Iraq.

The Iraqi opposition source, who asked to remain anonymous, emphasized that a state of confusion prevails among Kurdish opposition leaders because a few months ago Iran more than once sent envoys to Baghdad to propose sending a high-level leading Iraqi delegation to negotiate with them in Tehran—which aroused Iraqi Kurds' fears over an Iranian-Iraqi rapprochement. So an Iraqi Kurdish group began to flirt with Saddam Husayn after Iraqi Prime Minister [as published] Ahmad Husayn al-Samara'i—who was Iraq's ambassador to Tehran, is a specialist in Iranian and Kurdish affairs, and was the head of protocols behind the agreement signed on 11 March 1980 between the Kurds and the Iraqi Government—succeeded in bringing views closer between Tehran and Baghdad and in improving the atmosphere between them. Al-Samara'i was also the link with the Kurds, and when he was ambassador in Tehran, he participated in persuading numerous Iraqi opposition Kurds to return to Iraq. One of those who returned, namely 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Atrushi, a prominent Kurdish leader, became minister in the Baghdad government after having been governor of Irbil.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Iraqi source emphasized that the Kurdish opposition is currently confused because of Baghdad's move toward Tehran, believing that the Iranians have now embarked on the stage of punishing the Kurds, to say nothing of the artillery bombardment against them. The source went on to say that the Iranians are currently in a phase of "frost" with the Kurds.

On the European role in the Kurdish crisis with Baghdad, the source said that "the Europeans have begun to play the UN role in Kurdistan, and the EC is currently trying to play a major role at this level, especially in the light of the UN inability to manage the Iraqi internal crisis."

The source added that "the new element in the matter is that the conference held recently in Geneva reached a practical formula that does not embarrass the Iraqi Government and at the same time does not conflict with

the UN resolutions." The source said that after the Iranian pressure on them, the Kurds are only waiting for a presidential amnesty decision to allow them to return to Baghdad.

On reports of the presence of Iraqi officials in Europe to negotiate with the Kurds, the source emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a person named Majid 'Abd-al-Rida, a former communist who is very close to the authorities, has been entrusted by the Iraqi authorities with making a European tour to persuade oppositionists to join the regime. The important thing in Majid 'Abd-al-Rida's offers to the opposition is that he stresses that the Iraqi Government will soon endorse party pluralism laws, that vacant seats will be allocated to the opposition, and that the regime no longer has any problems with them because it has transcended these problems.

The source confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Majid 'Abd-al-Rida's offers to the Iraqi opposition, first and foremost the Kurdish opposition, are summed up in his demand that the opposition join the government, not negotiate with it. The source also stressed that the Iraqi Kurdish opposition has not cut off its links and relationship with Baghdad, as a few months ago it sent a football team to Baghdad. The team went to the football stadium, wearing shirts bearing Saddam Husayn's pictures—which provoked a dispute inside the Kurdish parliament itself. This means that a section of the Kurds wishes to normalize relations with the authorities in Baghdad.

Saddam Chairs Ba'th Party Command Meeting

JN1710115293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1024 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a meeting of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

In its meeting, the command hosted members of the party's branch commands.

Cabinet Meets To Promote Equitable Goods Distribution

JN1610214993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers this evening began the first in a series of extraordinary sessions under Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir to study recommendations of a committee the Cabinet formed to implement President Saddam Husayn's directives issued at the government's 5 September oath-taking ceremony.

The directives are meant to achieve justice in the distribution of durable and consumer goods, the possible addition of some of these articles to the ration card, and streamlined distribution to cut their cost and protect the public from exploitation and superfluous middlemen.

After exhaustive discussions, the Cabinet made the appropriate recommendations.

Members Discuss Distribution of Goods

JN1810210693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—The Cabinet this evening continued to meet in extraordinary sessions under Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir to discuss the recommendations made by the committees that were set up to execute the instructions President Saddam Husayn made to the prime minister and ministers when they had the honor to meet with his excellency and take the constitutional oath on 5 September 1995.

During its session today, the Cabinet discussed the distribution of commodities, goods, medicines, and medical supplies which the state manufactures or imports, and the necessary measures to regulate their use and movement in accordance with the valid laws and instructions.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Cabinet approved the recommendations made by the committees. It also approved a number of recommendations made by some ministers during the discussion.

Water Resources Seminar To Begin 19 Oct

JN1810194493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Arab delegations participating in the "Water Resources in Palestine and the Arab World: Current Conditions and the Future" seminar, scheduled to start tomorrow, Tuesday [19 October], have begun arriving in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

The seminar will discuss a number of major topics, including water scarcity, water contamination and its effect on the environment, Arab food security, Zionist measures to control water in Palestine and the neighboring Arab states, and means of improving inter-Arab cooperation by activating the role of the Arab geologist and engineer to conserve water resources.

Price of Electric Power for Industry Increase

JN1510091793 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 12 Oct 93 p 2

[Excerpt] Baghdad, INA—The Ministry of Industry and Minerals has decided to increase the price of consuming electric power by both the commercial and industrial sectors and by subscribers whose consumption of electricity exceeds 1,200 units per month.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Industry told an INA correspondent that the new increase will go into effect at the beginning of this month in order to economize on the consumption electricity during the current circumstances. It was taken into consideration that those with limited incomes whose domestic consumption of electricity does not exceed 1,200 units (kilowatt/hour) per month will not be affected by this increase. The

prices did not increase for this category of domestic consumers who form 96.8 percent of subscribers. [passage omitted]

Nonresidents To Pay Hard Currency for Medical Services

JN1410191593 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Oct 93 p 4

[By Khitam 'Ali]

[Text] The Ministry of Health has decided to charge fees for medical services rendered to nonresident Arabs and foreigners who go to hospitals, health institutions, the special nursing facility at the Saddam Medical Center, and private rooms and suites in hospitals.

A Ministry source has said the branches of the al-Rafidayn Bank were notified of the opening of a hard currency bank account in the name of the general company for marketing medicines and medical instruments in order to deposit the hard currency received from the nonresident Arabs and foreigners who go to hospitals and health institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Health in return for the services rendered to them.

These persons have to carry official documents showing the fees in Iraqi dinars, the hard currency equivalent of which should be paid for the medical services rendered to them, the source added.

Opposition Reportedly Kills 18 in Train Attack

NC1410201393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] A reliable source has reported to us that Iraqi opposition forces have attacked a train travelling between Baghdad and al-Nasiriyah. The attack took place in the Mahattat Tall al-Laham near al-Nasiriyah city. The attackers seized and burned the train after killing 18 of the regime's forces.

Opposition Radio Claims Army Shelling of South

JN1510195693 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The regime is unleashing a rabid campaign against our secure and defenseless people in our steadfast south, in implementation of a sly, arrogant plan to annihilate southern Iraq. Our latest news reports say the (al-Kislah) region in the al-'Amarah marshlands is now being heavily shelled with artillery and that the henchmen of tyrant Saddam have told the inhabitants they should evacuate this area and go elsewhere.

Our sources added that the regime reinforced its forces with armor and artillery units and Republican Guards, that took up positions around the (al-Kislah) area. This increases the possibility of a large-scale aggression. Our sources stressed that scores of families left their homes under the threat of the continuing cowardly artillery shelling, which killed or wounded a number of citizens and severely damaged their property.

It is noteworthy that these inhuman, barbaric acts are taking place with the full knowledge of international and humanitarian organizations, which remain silent about this criminal in spite of the issuance of UN resolutions condemning the tyrant for his criminal actions.

Iraqi 'Agents' Lay Explosive Devices in Kurdish Town

NC1710175693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] On the night of 16-17 October, a number of the Iraqi regime's agents laid two timed RPG rockets in front of the [name indistinct] international organization headquarters in Raniyah in al-Sulaymaniyah governorate. The two rockets went off today, Sunday, damaging a home. Sappers of the security forces in Raniyah defused a time bomb containing 5 kg of TNT before it went off.

200 Bodies Said Found in Mass Graves in South

NC1510190593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Two mass graves have recently been discovered in Iraq, one in al-Najaf and the other in al-'Amarah. An Amnesty International official in Paris said the organization has received new reports on the discovery and expressed the organization's concern. In a statement to the Voice of Iraqi People yesterday, the official, who asked not to be identified, said the graves contained the bodies of some 200 people, military and civilian. He said Amnesty International will place a special detailed report on the discovery at the disposal of the United Nations and the world's human rights organizations.

Rabin Doubts Accord Deadline To Be Met

TA1910120093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Report by Knesset correspondent Tziyon Nanus]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the release of the security prisoner who was jailed for 23 years and spoke about the release of prisoners in general. In principle, we are going to free Palestinian prisoners, but the numbers mentioned in the media about the release of 4,000-6,000 prisoners are baseless, Rabin said. My bureau has not yet held any discussion on figures or even on categories of prisoners to be released, Rabin told the committee.

Referring to the peace negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, the prime minister said everything depends on Dennis Ross' visit. We are always trying to conduct direct negotiations with Lebanon, but I will not play games; I know who decides policy in Lebanon. Only after Ross' visit will a decision be made on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, as well as on the date for the 12th round of peace talks.

Rabin told the Knesset members that during his visit to the United States and Morocco, he expressed concern about the PLO's ability to take over the running of the territories—or Gaza and Jericho—because it has never been responsible for feeding, educating, and housing people and providing them with services. King Hassan responded by saying he cannot believe the PLO will not make use of systems operated by the Civil Administration. Egyptian President Mubarak was not too concerned because to him, 750,000 people are merely a neighborhood in Cairo.

On the agenda for implementing the declaration of principles with the PLO, Rabin said the two-month deadline set to implement the agreement will most likely not be met. We did not know it would be so difficult; there are hundreds of details we did not think about, Rabin said. I hope we will reach agreements on the security issue, which is the most important, within two months.

The prime minister also said that Israel will ask the Americans for permission to use the loan guarantees not only for immigrant absorption but also to pay for the peace expenditures.

'Most Veteran' Prisoner Released

TA1910112393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Salim Zurayr, who considered the most veteran and senior Palestinian prisoner, was released this afternoon. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz notes that Zurayr, a 44-year-old resident of Dayr al-Balah, was in jail for 23 years. He was met at the Erez checkpoint by Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who conducted negotiations with the Israeli Government over the past two weeks for his release.

Peres on Release of Prisoners, Turkish Water Proposal

TA1910113093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres is touring northern Israel. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports on the foreign minister's statements about missing navigator Ron Arad and other topical issues.

[Begin recording] [Zilberman] Today's rally was supposed to be devoted to the upcoming elections to the local council. The meeting between Labor candidates from the Israeli Arab sector and the foreign minister, however, naturally turned into a rally in support of the peace process. Foreign Minister Peres was not caught up in the general enthusiasm. He knows that there is still a long way to go. One of the problems along the road is the release of Palestinian prisoners. There will be no mass releases before the matter is examined, the foreign minister said.

[Peres] It is still too early to say, because the matter is still under judicial review. As far as I know, this process has not been completed yet.

[Zilberman] Addressing the same issue, the foreign minister said that Israel is not linking the possible release of Palestinian prisoners to a demand for the release of missing navigator Ron Arad, despite the fact that the release of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists is also being considered.

[Peres] The two issues are not connected. To the best of my knowledge, the Palestinians are not holding Ron Arad.

[Zilberman] But can they not exert their influence to secure his release or at least supply us with some information about his fate?

[Peres] I think Hamas has more influence in this respect, but Hamas and the PLO are at loggerheads.

[Zilberman] Is there also talk of releasing Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists?

[Peres] We are currently examining the possibility of releasing prisoners according to various categories, such as the type of crime, as well as other legal aspects. I cannot tell you anything until the review is completed.

[Zilberman] The foreign minister told the rally's participants that the success of the peace process depends primarily on economic issues. One of the issues under discussion is control of the water sources. Shim'on Peres said that the Foreign Ministry is very seriously examining Turkey's proposal to supply Israel with its water reserves.

[Peres] Turkey has a lot to offer us. The first one to make this proposal was the late President Ozal. After that, the matter was not raised for some time, and I am very pleased that Turkey is again prepared to discuss the

water issue because it is the only country in the region with a real surplus of water.

[Zilberman] Is this a realistic proposal?

[Peres] There have been a number of proposals which I consider quite practical.

[Zilberman] While touring the north, Foreign Minister Peres also visited members of the Druze community in order to express his condolences over the death of Shaykh Amin Tarif. [end recording]

PLO Said Unable To Deliver on Covenant Pledge

TA1910093193 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Oct 93 p 4

[Report by Gid'on Sa'ar]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said at a Labor Knesset faction meeting that the PLO cannot muster the required two-thirds majority of the Palestine National Council to revoke those clauses of the Palestinian Covenant it undertook to revoke in its agreements with Israel.

Peres made this observation in a closed faction meeting last week, and HADASHOT has learned of the meeting's contents. Knesset Member Dalya Itzik asked Peres at the meeting why the PLO has not revoked the relevant clauses, despite its pledge. She added that there is a feeling "the negotiations are being rushed along." Peres replied: "Why is it so important right now? This is a matter of words."

Labor faction members said they were worried by what they heard from Peres about the PLO's inability to deliver with regard to its agreements with Israel.

Beilin Details Stance on Refugees, Permanent Talks

TA1910103993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Pnina Bat-Tzvi and 'Arad Nir on 19 October—recorded]

[Text] [Bat-Tzvi] Earlier this morning we spoke with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and asked for his reaction to reports, coming from three different sources, that Israel and the PLO had agreed to discuss the right of return for the 1948 refugees.

[Beilin] Look, even if these reports came from four different sources they would still be rubbish.

[Bat-Tzvi] But at yesterday's Labor Knesset faction meeting, you said that the Palestinians had not abandoned this demand.

[Beilin] That is correct.

[Bat-Tzvi] Did the issue crop up in Tunis during your meeting with Yasir 'Arafat?

[Beilin] It did not come up in my talks with 'Arafat, but it did feature in the speech made by 'Ilyas Sanbar, the Palestinian representative to the multilateral talks on refugee affairs. Nobody ever said that they had given up on their claim; however, we have a written agreement with the Palestinians stating that the issue of the 1948 refugees would only be discussed as part of negotiations on the permanent arrangement which will begin two and a half years from now at the earliest. Until then, the issue of the 1948 refugees will not be raised. Moreover, the PLO has not even asked to discuss this issue. The whole story strikes me as a pure fabrication. They did not even raise this demand. It is not as though they presented such a demand, and we rejected it. No such demand was even made. The only thing under discussion is the establishment of a joint committee—stipulated in the agreement and also agreed upon in the Camp David accords and composed of representatives from Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt, and Israel—to discuss the issue of Palestinians who were displaced in the 1967 war, and the possibility of perhaps returning some of them to the territories. I think that the categories were simply mixed up. We are talking about Palestinians displaced in 1967, not the refugees from 1948. The PLO has not even demanded a discussion of the latter.

[Nir] Mr. Beilin, perhaps while various ideas regarding the permanent arrangement were being floated—as you put it yesterday—certain participants may have construed things differently?

[Beilin] No, no. I think there was simply some misunderstanding on their part. There are so many different categories of refugees and displaced people that someone may have simply misunderstood and presented it this way. It is also possible that someone very aware of the differences purposely chose to present things this way. At any rate, these reports are not true.

[Bat-Tzvi] Both Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Deputy Defense Minister Gur criticized you this week for discussing elements of the permanent arrangement with PLO leaders in Tunis. You discussed the possibility of a confederation between the autonomy and Jordan. What is your reaction to this? Are you simply moving ahead of them?

[Beilin] I would like to separate the two criticisms. Deputy Defense Minister Gur was addressing a specific matter, whereas the prime minister was speaking in principle. I have no argument with the prime minister over the fact that the negotiations on the permanent arrangement will only take place later, in another two and a half years, as I said earlier. We are currently not conducting any negotiations on the permanent arrangement, we are only dealing with the interim accord. At the same time, I do not believe that anyone seriously believes one can simply stand silent while all kinds of proposals pertaining to the permanent arrangement are raised by the Arab countries and the PLO on an almost daily basis. After all, the PLO declares its intention to

establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital everyday. What are we supposed to say? That we cannot address this issue because we are dealing solely with the interim arrangement? Of course, we will continue to deal with the permanent arrangement and address issues relating to it, even if we do not conduct actual negotiations on it. I also think it is important for Israel to present its position regarding the nature of the permanent arrangement. There is no need to do this in detail, but in principle, Israel has a position, the Labor party has a position, and no one has to remain silent on these issues. If an Israeli, for example, says that in his opinion Ma'ale Adumim will remain under Israeli sovereignty during the permanent agreement then he is referring to the permanent—and not the interim,—arrangement. Anyone talking about Jerusalem or other issues is also relating to the permanent arrangement.

[Nir] Mr. Beilin, the HADASHOT newspaper this morning reports that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres speaking before a closed Labor party forum, said that the PLO had been unsuccessful in fulfilling it promise to Israel to nullify certain clauses in the Palestinian Covenant. How do we deal with this matter?

[Beilin] I did not attend that meeting so I do not know if the report is accurate. I can only say that it was no coincidence that Israel agreed in its written agreement with the PLO that these clauses would be changed by the PLO institutions. We did not wait for the PLO to abrogate these clauses before signing the agreement because we knew that it would take some time. Canceling these clauses requires the support of two thirds of all of the members of the Palestine National Council, not of the number of delegates actually participating in the sessions. This number will be very difficult to achieve and will take some time. We did not want to hold up the agreement until then. We have a written commitment that the clauses will indeed be abrogated, but it will not happen tomorrow.

[Nir] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin.

Beilin: 'Shuttle Diplomacy' With Syria Important

TA1810192793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] With the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace talks due in Jerusalem on Wednesday [20 October], Arye Haskell this evening asked Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin what Israel expects from this visit.

[Begin recording] [Beilin] I think that the major role that the United States will play now, and that will be the very important function fulfilled by Dennis Ross, is a kind of shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Syria. I believe that it is very important to enlarge the circle of the peace process. I think it is important Syria be part of it, and we have to check this possibility very profoundly, and that can be done—regretfully perhaps—only by a third party, and the best third party is the United States.

[Haskell] Now, today, AL-BA'TH, the Ba'th party newspaper, wrote that Syria rejects the idea of direct talks and that direct talks would be an interference in Dennis Ross' mission.

[Beilin] Well, direct talks are taking place between us for two years now, so it is a bit late to reject such a process. We are talking together in Washington, we are negotiating. Regretfully, our achievements are not very much to be proud of. Nevertheless, we did proceed, and I think that the shuttle diplomacy will take place on the background of the beginning of the agreement between the Syrians and us. At least we know about what we can't agree on for the time being, and that is quite important. [end recording]

Beilin: U.S. To Rehabilitate Lebanese Refugee Camps

TA1810171893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that the United States has promised to allocate $1.5 million to rehabilitate refugee camps in Lebanon in order to allay PLO concern that the 250,000 Palestinian refugees there will try to foil the accord with Israel claiming that the PLO has forgotten them. He also said there is a gap between the accord signed with the PLO and declarations by the organization's leaders, including their talk about a Palestinian state. Still, he noted, the PLO leaders do not talk about the right of return. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Beilin made the remarks in a meeting of Labor's Knesset faction.

Knesset Approves Money Transfer for Jobs in Gaza

TA1810125193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The Knesset Finance Committee has approved the transfer of 22.6 million shekels from the government ministries to the Civil Administration. Our correspondent Eytan Almog reports that this sum is meant to maintain the level of busywork jobs of 15,000 Palestinian laborers in the Gaza Strip.

Ben-Eli'ezer: Jerusalem Negotiations 'Taboo'

TA1810172093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said tonight that Jerusalem is taboo, and Israel will not agree to conduct negotiations over it. Ben-Eli'ezer made the remarks to the pro-Arab lobby in Washington. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports:

It was apparently the first meeting between an Israeli minister and the leaders of the American Arab lobby. We froze settlement, Ben-Eli'ezer told them. We have not built a single new house in the territories since we came to power. But, he stressed, in answer to a question, that

does not include construction in East Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, the subject of dreams by generations, the spirit of the nation. Jerusalem is taboo. We will not negotiate over it.

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording, in English] We considered, and continue to consider, Jerusalem as part of Israel. Jerusalem is not negotiable. Except Jerusalem, which is taboo from our point of view, everything is negotiable. [end recording]

Agreement has, of course, not been reached on Jerusalem, but the dispute over the Israeli capital can still be expected.

Ultra-Orthodox Settlement Built Near Green Line

TA1710063793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] A new ultra-orthodox settlement is being built near Modi'in, about 200 meters over the Green Line. The spiritual leader of the Degel Hatora Party, Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, gave his blessing to the town, which is being called Qiryat Sefer. Israel radio has learned that about 100 ultra-orthodox families moved into houses in the settlement, and more than a thousand are expected by the middle of next year. Qiryat Sefer was built on land owned both by the state and privately.

Kibbutz Industries Said Exporting to Arab Countries

TA1510072693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Industrial plants in kibbutzim have for years been exporting in ever-increasing quantities to Arab and Muslim countries, some of them extremely hostile to Israel. This emerged in a study conducted by our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling. Sources familiar with the issue estimate that exports from Israel to the Arab world—mainly agricultural and irrigation products manufactured by kibbutz industries—totaled $500 million in the last decade. The deals were usually made through intermediaries, but at times were made in direct contacts with Arab businessmen who came to Israel. The products were sold without any identifying marks, but this stipulation was recently canceled and Arab clients are no longer apprehensive about Israeli labels. Israeli products can be found today in Arab countries such as Syria, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Tunisia. Some of the plants also supply guidance and technical assistance to their Arab clients.

Consumer Price Index Up 1 Percent in Sep

TA1510122093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The consumer price index rose 1 percent in September and 8 percent in the first eight months of the year, bringing the current annual rate of inflation to 11 percent. Consequently, our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman notes, the Treasury's hopes to reach a single-digit rate of inflation have, in fact, been dashed.

At present, the expenses of an average urban family amount to 5,025 shekels, including housing expenses. Housing costs have increased by 17.5 percent since the beginning of the year, although the residential building input index dropped 0.6 percent in September. The 1-percent increase in September was caused mainly by the rise in the cost of housing, transportation, communications, health, and culture.

Three UNIFIL Soldiers Wounded by Artillery

TA1710063593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] In south Lebanon, three UN peace keepers were moderately to seriously wounded yesterday when a howitzer shell crashed into a military outpost manned by Nepalese soldiers. The soldiers were taken by helicopter to UNIFIL's field hospital in al-Naqurah. UNIFIL has submitted a complaint to the Israeli Army, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] says it did not fire the shell. A UNIFIL spokesman said the shell could not have been fired by gunmen, because it came from the south.

UN Commander Sends 'Strong Protest'

NC1710203393 Paris AFP in English 1159 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Oct 17 (AFP)—The United Nations protested to Israel Sunday [17 October] after three Nepalese U.N. troops were injured, one of them seriously, in mortar fire from Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

"We sent a strong protest to Israel," said Norwegian General Tord Furhoude, commander of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), who on Sunday visited the U.N. base at Majdal Zun, to the west of the occupied zone, where the three troops were injured by a 155 mm mortar shell on Saturday.

Furhoude said the Israeli army was "the occupying force and it is responsible".

One of the injured soldiers was evacuated by helicopter to the UNIFIL headquarters at al-Naqurah in the buffer zone, where he was operated on late Saturday, Furhoude said.

Israeli forces patrol the "security zone" in southern Lebanon, along with their proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The U.N. force, comprising about 5,000 troops, has in the past been caught in the crossfire between Israeli-SLA forces and anti-Israeli units in Lebanon.

Israeli forces and the SLA have prevented UNIFIL contingents, in the region since 1978, from deploying up to the Israeli border, as provided for in their Security Council mandate.

IDF Steps Up State of Alert Along Northern Border

TA1810120493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 93 p A10

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is stepping up its state of alert along the northern border and inside the security zone, expecting the rejectionist organizations to attempt to carry out attacks with the intention of harming the peace process.

It is believed that terrorists, mainly Hizballah and Islamic Jihad, will attempt spectacular attacks.

Military sources have been referring to a report in the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS in which the commanders of the Palestinian rejectionist organizations in Beirut, which oppose the Gaza and Jericho agreement, hinted that they intend to carry out quality terror attacks as part of a "long and far-ranging" plan to foil the agreement.

The AL-QABAS reporter asked one of the commanders in the Mar Ilyas refugee camp whether the operations will be done through Lebanese territory. The commander replied that they will be executed wherever the Zionist enemy may be. The Kuwaiti paper further says that senior Fatah circles have been accused of giving the Israeli authorities information regarding the opposition cells.

The IDF continues investigating the circumstances of the incident in which a mortar shell was fired at a UN post in Lebanon. The probe has so far revealed that SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers fired the mortar shell which hit the UN post, injuring three Nepalese soldiers. The probe also found that the shell shifted from its trajectory by a strong gust of wind.

Officers at the Northern Command asked the Nepalese soldiers to give them the shell debris to help them trace its source.

Police Says Terror Attack '2 Weeks Ago' Not By Fatah

TA1710164793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Police Commissioner Rafi Peled said that the terror squad from Sur Bahir which planted the mine near Kibbutz Ramat Rahel two weeks ago did not belong to Fatah and was just a local group. According to him, ever since the signing of the Israeli-PLO agreement of principles the state of security in the territories has improved slightly while the level of crime has not changed. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Commissioner Peled added that there has not yet been any contact between Israel Police and the leaders of the Palestinian police force and it is not yet known who will head it. According to him, the goal is to attain maximum cooperation between the two police forces. The commissioner was briefing police affairs correspondents in Jerusalem.

Kakh Claims Responsibility for Grenade Attack

TA1810124793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Four local people were lightly injured this morning when a hand grenade was tossed into the main square of the Nabulus market. The grenade rolled under a truck, where it exploded.

Israeli soldiers in the vicinity opened fire on the area from where the grenade was assumed to have been thrown. No organization has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 18 October reports: "A message from the Committee for Road Safety of the Kakh movement, which reached our territories correspondent Golan Yokhpaz, states that the hand grenade which exploded in the Hebron market this morning had been thrown by Kakh people."]

Germany Financed Advanced Patriot Battery

TA1810113793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 93 p A5

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] BITA'ON HEYL HA'AVIR [The Air Force Journal] has revealed that Germany financed the purchase of an additional Patriot missile battery for the Israel Air Force [IAF].

The new battery is bigger than the existing ones, and includes several improvements in detection ability, immunity to electronic warfare, and distribution of launchers.

During the Gulf war, when Israel received the Patriot batteries from the United States, the German Government decided to give Israel another battery. The IAF preferred to receive German funds with which to purchase an advanced new battery in the United States. Germany agreed, and financed the purchase of the battery at $102 million.

The new battery is made up of eight launchers, 57 missiles, a control trailer, a radar trailer, and maintenance equipment. In addition, the IAF purchased a battalion-level control trailer which allows combining data from several Patriot and Hawk batteries, and can perform fire control tasks on several batteries. [passage omitted]

Arrow Test Not Successful; Source of Fault Located

TA1710064093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The test firing of Israel's Arrow missile last week was not successful. The Arrow's manufacturer, Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], says the missile did not hit its target, but this time IAI located the source of the fault. IAI says there was a problem in the operational system of the missile's warhead.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 18 October, in a related report by Arye Egozi on page 7, adds the following: "The source of the fault was located in the missile's sensors, which are supposed to activate the warhead. A similar fault occurred in the test held last February."]

Witnesses said the launch was aimed at testing the Arrow's ability to intercept an enemy missile fired from a ship off the coast. IAI says it will conduct another test in about four months time, and then one final test before engineers begin development of the Arrow-2 project.

King Husayn on Palestinians, Dealings With Israel

NC1810142693 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 15 Oct 93 pp 17,18,19,55

[Interview with King Husayn by Dr. Salwa Abu-Sa'dah in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Sa'dah] The mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, as well as the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the Jordanian- Israeli declaration of principles, are considered a new and significant development in regional relations. What is Your Majesty's view on the extent of Arab action necessary to implement and develop these agreements to benefit the Arabs?

[Husayn] In my opinion, nothing has been done yet to utilize the Arab and Palestinian action. I hope that all Arab leaders will rise to the level where we can again become one nation capable of discussing all its present and future affairs and work for greater solidarity to confront all challenges and dangers.

[Abu-Sa'dah] There were Jordanian fears and reservations about the Gaza-Jericho agreement. What were they, and have they disappeared?

[Husayn] There were no reservations. There was surprise about what had happened. Jordan has always been committed to enabling the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to exercise its right to represent the Palestinians, particularly at the Rabat summit in 1974. Recently we went even further and declared that we will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. We supported them with all our resources. We provided the umbrella for a Palestinian delegation representing Palestine and a Jordanian delegation representing Jordan to enable the Palestinians to hold direct talks and represent the Palestinian people's aspirations and hopes, first in Madrid and then in Washington. We were also the first to accept multilateral negotiations because we believed that the world must help us tackle the conditions that have resulted from past events and support our brothers in Gaza and the West Bank if an agreement was reached as a result of the peace process. Actually, it was the element of surprise that influenced our quick response to what happened. But after studying the issue, we found that we must be honest with ourselves and our position of support for the PLO and independent Palestinian decisionmaking. This is a Palestinian demand that we have heard all over the Arab world. We gave our blessing to what happened and regarded it a bold and courageous move toward making the Palestinian Arabs shoulder their responsibility. We will help them achieve their aspirations. One aspect of this support was signing the agenda on Jordanian-Israeli issues, which was already prepared but which we refused to sign until we saw tangible progress. The progress made by mutual recognition and the declaration of principles agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis exceeded our estimation.

[Abu-Sa'dah] There have been Jordanian fears of a possible exodus of Palestinians from the Palestinian territories to Jordan. How do you see things now that Palestinian leaders say that the opposite will happen?

[Husayn] There have been no fears, except in the absence of coordination, clarity, and frankness. Jordan—praise be to God—has held its own in the face of all events and has borne the brunt of the tragedies that have befallen the Arabs and Palestinians. We have been through a long journey of missed opportunities and chaotic policies.

Actually, the situation has not changed. The Palestinians in the homeland have held tight to their land and national soil and have made many sacrifices through 26 years of occupation. They have continued to do so through the recent intifadah and despite the practices of the occupation forces.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What is the Jordanian policy concerning the accommodation of Palestinian refugees [al-laji'in] living in Syria and Lebanon?

[Husayn] This issue does not concern us. I find it particularly painful that any individual who emigrates from the Arab world to any other part in the world is granted within a specific period of time the right of citizenship in the country he goes to.

As for the Palestinian issue, I believe that there are generally clear resolutions concerning [their right of] return or compensation or both. As for the migrants [al-muhajirin] there must be a new vision concerning the future for these people, our folks and brothers, in every part of the Arab world. Will it be possible for them to be treated as well as they would in any other part of the world? Will they obtain their rights and be helped to settle down? Will their future needs be met?

Jordan's circumstances do not allow it to receive any more refugees. The catastrophes of 1948 and 1967 and the tragedy that befell us all in the Gulf have taken their toll on us. Neither Jordan's land or circumstances allow it to bear further demographic burdens in the future. Jordan will remain a homeland for all its sons, of all origins, until any of them freely decides to go elsewhere. The Palestinians are entitled to request return [to their homeland] or reparations.

We have always been one family and will always remain so. A Palestinian citizen, who is a part of our family, has the right to apply for reparations in order to better his lot. It is my belief that peace will be pointless unless it makes a tangible difference for the people involved, their rights, and their ability to start a new and stable life, one that is different from what they have had for many years now.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Your Majesty earlier commented on the poor, or almost nonexistent, coordination in the work of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committees. What is the situation now, in the wake of the new developments?

[Husayn] It is our view that the makeup of the committees must be changed after these developments. This is one thing. On the other hand, the course of action should differ from that pursued in the past. We are talking about

inter-Arab coordination and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, because it has recently made progress where peace is concerned. We suddenly saw dreams and hopes turning into reality, so we need a new mechanism; we need to invest the energies and resources on the Palestinian and Jordanian sides, as well as the collective Arab side, so that we can stand on solid ground, with absolute confidence this time, and act openly and candidly to gain the desired future.

[Abu-Sa'dah] The issue of dual nationality still concerns both Jordanians and Palestinians. In your view, how can this issue be resolved?

[Husayn] We have no apprehensions in this regard. All Jordanians are the same, regardless of their roots and origins. Anyone who might like to change his nationality is welcome to do so. The important thing is that we are one cohesive family and one people.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Speaking to AL-MUSAWWAR last week, brother Faysal al-Husayni suggested that each person be granted two passports and one identification card. Is this proposal acceptable to Your Majesty?

[Husayn] The proposal might be acceptable, but we did not study it. It has not been submitted to us seriously, and we did not approve it. However, this might be the only country that permitted citizens in the past to have more than one nationality.

[Abu-Sa'dah—interrupting] And two passports?

[Husayn] Appropriately, this country naturally provided brother Palestinians in the West Bank with passports. But these passports are different from Jordanian passports.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Your Majesty recently said that a confederation with the Palestinians is premature. You explained that this matter will depend on the voluntary and free choice of both peoples. What are the reasons underlying this belief, particularly since the Palestinian leaders believe that a confederation is a strategic necessity and not an intellectual luxury?

[Husayn] My sister, the Palestinian side insists on this formula. My belief is based on sincerity and concern for their interests. We had long experience with unity in its various forms. Unfortunately, most of them collapsed because they lacked one element: Starting from the bottom upward. Although we tried the impossible in order to face the challenges as one rank, one hand, and one heart at the various levels, the recent period has brought surprises. This might reflect a lack of confidence, confidence that could have kept us abreast of what was going on or provided an umbrella for joint action. If this is the reality at the highest levels, I believe that many parties in our Arab world, in addition to Israel and others, tried hard and succeeded in inculcating this lack of confidence. This can only be cured by carrying out the building process from the grassroots upward. When our people and brothers obtain their full right to self-determination on their national soil, we can then look for the best approach to establishing a link between the two peoples. We are proud of this distinctive link between the two peoples, who have gone through trails together and borne the consequences together in a unique manner.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Will Jordan accede to the Palestinian request to reopen King 'Abdallah Bridge in addition to the King Husayn [Allenby] and Prince 'Abdallah [Damiya] bridge crossings?

[Husayn] This is possible. I believe discussions are under way to reopen the bridge.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Jordan and Israel have signed a Declaration of Principles. Can we ask the King to tell us the reasons why this signing was expedited and the most important amendments that have been made to it? Will this agreement and the earlier Gaza-Jericho agreement influence the negotiations on the other tracks?

[Husayn] Bearing in mind that Jordan is an existing state that has rights, demands, and occupied territories and that it is committed to the concept of a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace, our earlier delay was designed only to give the Palestinians the chance to act, which they have the right to do. When this was done, it was natural for us to take a direct step forward and assume responsibility for it. We will deal with our issues and problems. We hope that very soon the regional peacemaking process will include the remaining sister states of Syria and Lebanon.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Your Majesty, do you believe that this agreement paves the way for negotiations that might lead to a peace treaty with Israel?

[Husayn] There is a long way to go from our current stage to a peace treaty. A peace treaty will come one day if things follow the course everyone should take. We are demanding peace and working for it. We hope that when it comes it will be comprehensive and will deal justly with all the aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. I believe that a very big step has been made in this direction. I am referring to the fact that the core of the conflict, the Palestinian-Israeli part of it, has begun to be dealt with.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Will Jordanian priorities change in the next round of peace talks in Washington?

[Husayn] No. I believe that serious negotiations will begin with the issues included on the "agenda." Something new might develop. In this new situation there will be Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations and Palestinian-Jordanian negotiations [as published] to specify positions and so that we can back the Palestinians, not let them remain weak vis-a-vis the other side, and do everything possible to enable them to solve all the problems they face.

[Abu-Sa'dah] According to one viewpoint, it is possible to exploit the U.S.-Israeli eagerness to implement a Middle Eastern economic cooperation plan as an Arab

pressure card that will enable us, by using the simultaneity concept, to obtain the greatest possible proportion of our regional, political, and security rights. In Your Majesty's view, can this method be used in the next stages of negotiations?

[Husayn] I imagine so. This is because any future implementation of agreements requires that there be a balance, that the interests of both parties be taken into account, and that no party benefit at the expense of another. On the other hand there is the question of the entire process. Attaining a peace treaty and the subsequent normalization of ties, the establishment of mutual relations, and the exchange of embassies will require some time. We hope that this will happen in the context of the desired comprehensive peace that will deal with the issue of each concerned Arab party. This will enable us to put this stage behind us, with all its repercussions and pain. When we do this, we will have begun because of the Palestinian link, followed by the other concerned Arab parties. We will need the support of our kinsfolk and brothers in the Arab homeland on the basis of integration, cooperation, harmony, and agreement to achieve an appropriate solution. The stages immediately ahead of us will be arduous and long. We must not be overly optimistic. You cannot solve all issues overnight; much effort is needed. We pray God that we will succeed in attaining our hopes.

[Abu-Sa'dah] During a meeting, the first of its kind, Crown Prince Hasan and Shim'on Peres signed a U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli economic cooperation agreement in Washington. What does Your Majesty think of this U.S.-Israeli haste to expedite the Israeli- Arab normalization? Also, how much does this jeopardize the course of the current negotiations?

[Husayn] We sent Prince Hasan to Washington with a message for U.S. President Clinton. He was received by President Clinton. President Clinton told me earlier that at the end of his meeting with the prince he might invite Israel's Foreign Minister to join the meeting. This is what actually occurred and it was with our consent. Naturally, we are concerned with supporting the existing peace efforts and the Palestinian brothers.

It appears that the Israeli side had reached the conviction that the problem could not be solved except by recognizing Palestinian rights and recognizing their leadership and cooperating with it. This step, which has relieved our burden, was the fruit of our labors that have been going on since 1974.

It is natural that such meetings should take place. The Palestinian-Israeli meeting was held in the United States publicly and in broad daylight. Why shouldn't other meetings also take place? We know our issues and we have confidence in ourselves. We also have confidence in our ability to defend our rights and we do not fear any side.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Prince Hasan's meeting was held in public. But news agencies are in the habit of reporting about secret meetings. The last of these was REUTER, which reported that Your Majesty met with Yitzhaq Rabin in Aqaba recently. What is your comment?

[Husayn] I believe that this particular report was dismissed by the two sides. Since the passage of Security Council Resolution 242 we have been shouldering our responsibilities and we have been trying with all our means to salvage the territories and help the kinsfolk in the region, particularly in the West Bank.

We have always advocated the Palestinian meeting [al-Liqa' al- Filastini]. In other words, the issue of the West Bank and Gaza should be treated as one integral unit and they should under no circumstances be separated. The picture has changed since 1974. We started then to focus on the issue of the Palestinian side's responsibility. Naturally, endeavors were made to discuss the issues clearly and frankly to explore ideas. No body can say that we had ever relinquished any Palestinian right, territorial or others, until the Rabat summit in 1974.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Some people think that the U.S.-Israeli moves are aimed at achieving peace for the development principle instead of the land-for-peace principle. What is Your Majesty's comment and how much does this jeopardize the current peace process?

[Husayn] There must be peace and the land must return to its owners. There also must be development. The issue of the people's needs, demands, and rights must be resolved so that there will be a genuine peace in the region.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Water is the most important issue that concerns all parties. It is clearly outlined in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. What is Jordan's view of the magnitude of the problem and how does it recommend handling it, specifically with Israel since the water issue will be the cause of any conflict that might erupt in the region?

[Husayn] This is indeed one of the most serious and important issues. We talked a little while ago about some of the serious problems facing us, which included assimilating more people and the water issue. We can address this urgent issue within the framework of a genuine peace. Therefore, we hope the other parties will quickly join us to regain their rights and help make peace, particularly our brothers in Syria and Lebanon. We hope that they will regain their rights in the near future, God willing, and that they will be given an opportunity to make peace.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What about the project of linking the Red Sea to the Dead Sea?

[Husayn] This is one of the projects being considered, linking the Red Sea to the Dead Sea or the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea to generate power or desalinate water for good use. This project may require energy resources unavailable to us or not possible for a certain country to possess. However, as part of a comprehensive peace these means, such as the use of nuclear power, may be reasonable and acceptable for water desalination.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What is Your Majesty's view of Shim'on Peres' current proposal regarding a Middle Eastern market? Is his proposal based on Israeli technology, cheap Arab labor, and a consumer market?

[Husayn] If we have the opportunity to achieve stability—because we in this country have lived many years with anxiety about the future—things settle down, we have the resources, provide youth with job opportunities, and disparities between the rich and poor and the educated and uneducated disappear, I believe we will be able to solve all our problems. As for the proposal, it offers merely ideas. I believe that Jordan and Palestine have talents, qualifications, and experiences that will enable them to make great achievements in the future. If we compare Israel and the constant support it has received and our achievements with our limited resources, we can be reassured about the future.

[Abu-Sa'dah] The Gulf war had a great economic impact on Jordan. Have you overcome the crisis now?

[Husayn] Not yet, but, God willing, we will.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Jordan is about to begin a period of economic reform. Can you identify the most important features of the required economic reforms and measures?

[Husayn] First democracy, then political pluralism, then national consensus and respect for human rights. All these are contributing factors; this is the path we have charted, and we will pursue it unceasingly.

We are now trying to deal with the foreign debt by obtaining what had been relinquished. So far, we are committed to implementing all we agreed upon with the World Bank and with the other concerned parties. We were informed at one point that we were exemplary in this regard and we asked if one party implements an agreement fully, why punish him for what has been accomplished? Then the peace process began, which is the new situation we have now and we hope that these issues will now be addressed. We hope to begin discussing all we can do to create better opportunities for this good nation so that they can be productive and improve on past circumstances.

[Abu-Sa'dah] There was a possibility that elections would be postponed, especially after the announcement of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, as Your Majesty said, so that the could coincide with the Palestinian elections in order to avoid turning them into a referendum on the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. Why did you change your mind on this and why was it announced that elections will be held in November as scheduled?

[Husayn] Our determination to pursue the path we have chosen toward democracy, consultation, participation in decisionmaking, our confidence in ourselves, our confidence in the existing relationship between the Jordanian people and their leaders, and our confidence in this nation's awareness and discretion—all these justify not postponing the elections. God willing, these elections will be carried out in an exemplary manner.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Jordan recently experienced a broad democratic experience. Your Majesty, how do you assess this experience; what is its distinguishing characteristic and flaws?

[Husayn] What distinguishes it most is that it came after our decision to end administrative and legal links with the occupied West Bank, after which the PLO accepted Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which we had wished would happen many years before. This allowed the restoration of parliament and then the great accomplishment of forming a royal committee comprised of all intellectual schools in this country, from the far right to the far left. The committee produced the national charter based on respect for the constitution in order to devise a path for everyone to move toward political pluralism.

I believe we will pass through various stages in which we will gain experience, practice, and meet challenges to everyone, so that they will understand the meaning of participation, bearing responsibility, and the meaning of democracy. We are committed to the charter with a view to giving others in the world an example and a picture of what awareness, resolve, and determination can achieve.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Your Majesty, you have called on your new government to work to promote inter-Arab integration and to resolve Arab problems in the context of Arab regional institutions. You said in this connection: "We support the restoration of frank dialogue and the reorganization of inter-Arab relations on sounder and firmer foundations." How can this be done? What mechanisms are needed for this purpose?

[Husayn] All we need at this time and in the current circumstances is a degree of collective Arab interest in promoting this objective. We have a longstanding demand for direct and frank dialogue. We are seeking a situation in which we can handle our affairs and needs in this changing world so that any new international order will not be at our expense. We must be effective participants in any such order and must seek to further our own interests alongside the interests of others. We are hoping and waiting; we believe that circumstances make it necessary to hold meetings to discuss all issues. Our only objective is the good of all parties. We want relations to be based on mutual respect, cooperation, and integration. We want to promote an atmosphere of trust that will serve as the basis of handling Arab issues in the context of a single Arab family.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Do you think that the Arab League's current role and structure must change in order to keep abreast of new circumstances? Should its charter be changed? Should the change also concern the majority vote rule?

[Husayn] The Arab League is one of the world's oldest institutions of its kind. We have long discussed the matter you ask about. I believe we can discuss such

matters if there are good intentions to reach an ideal solution. On the other hand, when we look at our current conditions, we hope that we could have achieved what the Europeans achieved. They succeeded despite their past problems. We Arabs have common origins and a common destiny. We pray that God will help us move in the right direction and that our meetings will be held on sound foundations.

[Abu-Sa'dah] You have urged holding an Arab summit conference. Seven Arab countries agreed; the Gulf states declined. Egypt agrees, on condition that proper preparation is made for the meeting. Your Majesty, what are the prospects of holding such a summit now?

[Husayn] My opinion has always been that whenever there is a problem, a meeting must be held to solve it, to discuss its causes and a way of ending it. Problems do not solve themselves automatically. That is why I am for holding a summit. I hope my brother Arab leaders will agree.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What can you tell us about Jordan's relations with the Gulf states, keeping in mind what you recently told the press about your stand on this issue?

[Husayn] We have always been the closest people to our Gulf brothers, always eager to serve them, to preserve the interests of all parties, and join a collective effort to face new challenges. Then rapid events intervened. We did not succeed in solving our inter-Arab problems and also failed to turn events around in the direction of an Arab solution. The consequences affected us all. We lost much. We will make up the losses, God willing.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Have Egyptian-Jordanian relations overcome the summer cloud of the second Gulf war?

[Husayn] As far as we are concerned, we have passed this. I believe the same holds true for our Egyptian brothers. I have contacted brother President Mubarak several times. I believe we will meet shortly.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Should we expect a visit by Your Majesty to Cairo soon?

[Husayn] I do not know where we will meet, but we will meet, whether here or there, just as we used to do in the past. By the way, the last time I visited Cairo, it was in circumstances I hope will not be repeated. [reference to his visit in October 1992 to offer condolences after an earthquake]

Ross Mideast Tour, U.S. Role in Process Viewed

JN1810103093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Oct 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The Peace Process and the U.S. Role"]

[Text] Dennis Ross, U.S. Middle East peace coordinator, will begin a tour of the region today. He will visit Cairo and other concerned capitals in a bid to develop common principles to ensure the continuation and advancement of the peace process. The tour is also intended to prepare the atmosphere for a new shuttle tour of the region by Warren Christopher.

This new U.S. move indicates that there are many obstacles and difficulties still facing the peace process, and that there is an urgent need to do something to overcome them and create joint denominators acceptable to concerned parties. This a necessary step to ensure the continuation of the peace process on all tracks.

This new move by the U.S. Administration—the sponsor and partner—is important. What is even more important is the nature of this role. Will it lead to just and comprehensive solutions based on the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the UN Security Council? Or will it be—as usual—biased toward Israel and its evasion of those resolutions, nonrecognition of the legitimate rights of the area peoples, and unpreparedness to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories without exception?

We are certain that the U.S. Administration is fully aware of the nature of the conflict. It knows that the Arabs want a just, comprehensive peace. However, regrettably, it is not dealing with the issue of peace on this basis. In fact it is fully biased toward Israel. And if it is compelled to react to something or express a view, it proceeds from double standards, paying no attention to what is right, just, or the cause of peace.

The negotiations between Syria and Israel and between Lebanon and Israel have been continuing for two years and many rounds of negotiations were held. However, no progress or positive results were achieved. Thus, Syria was compelled to state that it will not go to the negotiations unless Israel shows readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. The United States knows that Israeli intransigence is responsible for this failure. Syria is demanding a just comprehensive peace. Thus, if the United wants to play a positive role, it should, first and foremost, force the Israeli leaders to comply with the international resolutions and withdraw from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. Only then can peace become possible. There can be no peace without Syria, and no peace can prevail unless it is just and comprehensive.

Abu-Nuwar Denies Israel's Rabin To Visit Jordan

PM1910090493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Jordan Denies Willingness To Receive Rabin"]

[Text] Amman, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar yesterday denied reports of the Israeli prime minister's intention of making a visit to Jordan, the first visit of its kind after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement.

The Jordanian minister said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that this information is baseless,

and not everything published or said is true. At another level, he denied that the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin recently, as stated in an interview published by the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR recently. He said that the only meeting which took place between Jordanian officials and an Israeli official was the recent Washington meeting between Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton, which was officially announced by Jordan. He added that "Prince Hasan's meeting with the Israeli minister is an official and legitimate meeting. It was held openly, and we have nothing to hide."

Israeli Bid To Monopolize Economy, Aid Envisioned

JN1910083793 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Oct 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Ross's Tour and the Expected Goals"]

[Text] Israel has launched a political test balloon at the start of a visit to the region by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace process. This visit is aimed at breaking the stalemate that prevails over the negotiations, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday said that the peace offered by Syria is a peace without content—one that does not normalize bilateral relations, does not open embassies in both countries, and does not provide for opening borders and establishing commercial relations. This statement shows the Israeli Government's real intentions and the goals it seeks to achieve from the entire peace process and on all tracks—to take and not give. This means that first of all, Israel wants to achieve total normalization with the Arab countries in all fields without any commitments to restoring the usurped Arab rights.

During his current tour of the region, the U.S. envoy is shouldering the great responsibility of exerting serious pressure on Israel to respond to the requirements of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region. This is especially true since the desired peace in the region cannot be achieved if it is not comprehensive. Jordan is strongly committed to this issue and reaffirms this on every occasion through His Majesty King Husayn and ranking officials.

Postponing the 12th round of bilateral negotiations is a sure sign of Israel's obstruction of the negotiations and its attempts to isolate each Arab party. This Israeli policy is clear through statements by ranking officials in the Tel Aviv Government, which is seeking to delay progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. In addition to Shim'on Peres' aforementioned statement, Yitzhaq Rabin, the head of the Israeli Government, said that the situation is not yet conducive to achieving an agreement with Syria. These two statements coincide with the start of Ross's visit to the region.

At the same time, the Tel Aviv Government is making an exceptional effort on the economic level. It is no secret that Israel aims through such conflict to turn the Arab economy into a satellite economy at the expense of coordination and integration among the Arab parties, especially Jordan and Palestine. Moreover, through the expected international economic assistance to Palestinian self- rule and the concerned countries of the region, Israel is seeking to benefit as much as possible from the money, aid, and grants that will be given to the Palestinians by considering the Palestinian economy as part of the Israeli economy.

Jordan, which insists on achieving a comprehensive solution on all tracks, categorically rejects Israel's efforts to control the region's economy and monopolize the expected international aid. This is especially so since any international aid should be distributed according to the results and harm that has afflicted the Arabs as a result of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. There is no doubt that Jordan was greatly harmed by the economic, social, and political repercussions of this occupation.

Israel Blamed for 'Failed' Talks With Syria

JN1710113993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Oct 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "The Israeli Intransigence on the Syrian Track"]

[Text] Although some progress has been achieved as a result of negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli and Jordanian-Israeli tracks, both the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks are still at square one. No breakthrough in the peace process has been achieved on these two tracks despite two years of negotiations in Madrid and Washington.

All signs and facts show that both this obstruction and the failure to achieve any positive or tangible results are due to the intransigence and prevarications of the Israeli negotiators.

Israel only wants peace in the sense of normalization of relations, exchange of diplomatic representation, open borders, and peace agreements and treaties, but without mentioning the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories or full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

Observers wonder why the Syrian-Israeli negotiations failed. All facts, however, confirm that the Israeli Government is the reason because it cites unfounded pretexts and allegations which do not show any intention of establishing peace in the region or ending the sanguineous conflicts that have been waged for tens of years.

The Israeli leaders would be mistaken if they think that signing both an agenda with Jordan and the Gaza-Jericho agreement with the Palestinians has granted them a bargaining chip against Syria and Lebanon. This is because there will be no peace without Syria, nor will

there be security and stability in the region if Israel tries to exclude Syria. Fraternal Syria has an Arab and regional role and weight, so any circumvention of Syria by any party will fail, and will only meet with denunciation and rejection by all Arabs. Therefore, it is either a comprehensive and just peace or no peace at all.

This intransigent and tricky Israeli position has prompted Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to announce in Cairo yesterday that there will be no return to negotiations with Israel if there are no positive initiatives. As al-Shar' said, what happened in the past two years was a waste of time, and Israel did not make any encouraging positive initiative.

Announcing this clear and frank position on the peace process, fraternal Syria has affirmed to the whole world that it supports just and comprehensive peace, and that it waged the battle of peace to regain the rights and liberate the occupied territories and not to engage in the mazes of negotiations and the games of Israel's cunning masters.

It remains for the world in general and the U.S. cosponsor in particular to realize the fact that Syria and Lebanon really want peace, that Israel is the party that does not want peace, that there will be no peace without Syria, and that there will be no peace without full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Envoy Urges Comprehensive Solution on All Tracks

JN1810173593 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1555 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Amman, 18 Oct (PETRA)—Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordanian ambassador in Washington and head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has stressed Jordan's principled commitment to achieving a comprehensive solution on all the Arab-Israeli tracks.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency in Amman, Dr. al- Tarawinah expressed hope that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement will be a good start for other tracks. He pointed out that the Arab and Israeli negotiators are going to enter into lengthy negotiations to discuss details only if Israel is ready to discuss such details.

Regarding the visit to the Middle East by Dennis Ross, U.S. Middle East peace coordinator, Dr. al-Tarawinah said that the visit was aimed at assessing recent developments in negotiations, exploring the views of the parties involved in the peace process, and discussing relations between Jordan and the United States.

Asked if the previous rounds of talks, which preceded the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement, were a waste of time, as some people believe, Dr. al- Tarawinah said he rejects such talk and that were it not for those rounds, the current results would not have been reached. These rounds of talks, he added, created a negotiating atmosphere and enabled the parties involved to reach compromises.

Dr. al-Tarawinah reaffirmed Jordan's firm position on negotiations and stressed the need for Jordan to reach a comprehensive solution and to fully coordinate with the Palestinian brothers.

Regarding his expectations about the upcoming round of talks, which had been scheduled to be held at the end of this month and which was postponed to an unspecified date, Dr. al-Tarawinah said: Surprises happen all the time. We hope the psychological atmosphere will encourage the concerned parties to break the stalemate and achieve progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

King Husayn Receives PLO's Sha'th 18 Oct

JN1810161493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Today at the Royal Hashemite Court, His Majesty King Husayn received Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. During the meeting, they discussed various regional and bilateral issues, as well as the latest developments, particularly those pertaining to the peace process.

PLO's Sha'th Urges Joint Ventures in Territories

JN1910120593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 93 p 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman—A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Monday called on Jordanian businessmen to move quickly to set up joint ventures with Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to ensure a major role in rebuilding the occupied territories and the Palestinian economy in general.

Nabil Sha'th, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a key negotiator with Israel on the implementation of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO autonomy accord, also said that there was little ground for Arab fears that the Jewish state would economically dominate the Middle East.

Dr. Sha'th, addressing a conference of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen and bankers, said that the autonomy agreement was "not exactly the best of agreements in the world," but that given the situation in the Middle East and the international scene, it was the best the Palestinians could have hoped for at this point in time. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sha'th, who heads the Palestinian team to negotiations with Israel on the implementation of the self-rule accord, said it was a foregone conclusion that the Palestinians' economy had to be closely intertwined with the Jordanian economy since it was not in their interest to continue to be tied with the Jewish state.

In this context, as well as that of short- and medium-term prospects for contracts and investments in the occupied territories with international financing, Dr. Sha'th urged Jordanian businessmen not to waste time in joining hands with the Palestinians.

"If I were a Jordanian businessman, I would be moving quickly to set up joint ventures with Palestinians in the occupied territories, build hotels and set up industries," he said.

Delving into prospects of a boom in tourism to the Holy Land as the main motivating factor for building hotels there, Dr. Sha'th reminded the audience: "There are four million Palestinians who have not seen Palestine: there are 200 million Arabs who have not seen Palestine: and there are one billion Muslims who have not seen Palestine..."

The Palestinians, working through the newly-set up Palestinian Emergency Development and Reconstruction Authority (PEDRA), will ensure that only joint ventures involving Palestinian firms in the occupied territories would be given infrastructure projects and a role in the economic development of the occupied territories, Dr. Sha'th said.

Asked how this could be accomplished, given the fact that international donors, the World Bank and U.N. agencies are designated as coordinators in the rebuilding and development process, Dr. Sha'th said PEDRA "will have the final say in the matter" and the donors and others should only be concerned by the feasibility and viability of projects and programmes and by arranging the financing.

According to Dr. Sha'th, it is a myth that Israel would turn out to be an economic giant and dominate the regional economy.

He pointed out that the main exports of Israel were arms and diamonds, "which are not the main imports of Arab countries." Furthermore, he said, Israel is not in a position to compete with Far Eastern countries in middle-level technological products.

In general, he said, the cost of production in Israel was so high that the Jewish state's production and exports were more oriented towards the West rather than the Arab world.

"Palestine will not be the bridge for Israel to enter the Arab market," he said. On the contrary, if the Arabs play their cards right, they may be able to penetrate the Israeli market, he said.

Dudin Comments on Refugee Issue, Multilaterals

JN1810131493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Oct 93 p 27

[Interview with Marwan Dudin, head of the Jordanian delegation to the refugee working group stemming from the multilateral talks, by Hazim al-Mubayyidin in Amman "after Dudin's return from Tunis meetings"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Mubayyidin] Jordan expressed reservations about attending the meetings of the multilateral refugee committees while Syria and Lebanon refused to attend. How do you explain this?

[Dudin] Jordan's presence is important and necessary because it is the first refugee host country to discuss the refugee issue at this international conference—and the Palestinian presence is also very important. When such issues are discussed within the bilateral talks, their political dimension will be discussed and specifics cannot be dealt with. In such meetings, however, we can discuss refugee rehabilitation, their mode of life, and ways to help them return to their homeland. We can also discuss the ways to provide them with appropriate living conditions once they have returned.

Syria and Lebanon's excuse for not attending the multilateral talks, which deal with the post-peace era, is that no progress has been made in the bilateral talks. We hope that progress will be achieved in the bilateral talks so all Arab parties will join them.

[Al-Mubayyidin] What about the repatriation right? It has been said that such meetings will conceal such a right.

[Dudin] The repatriation right is very clear and there is no bargaining over it in any coming talks. The Palestinian-Israeli agreement deals clearly with the 1967 refugees. I would like to stress here that the Palestinian leadership shoulders a heavy responsibility in this regard, particularly in terms of defining the displaced people, the time of their displacement, and the methods of their repatriation. I am saying this in light of the experience gained through our negotiations with the Israeli side. No step can be achieved without agreement between the Israeli authority and the Palestinian entity as long as this entity is exercising self-rule without complete sovereignty.

The most important thing is that, for the first time, a clear announcement has been made on talks to deal with the 1948 refugees. The Camp David accords ignore this point. I am surprised how some people attack the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement with regard to this point or with regard to the issue of Jerusalem as we have all known, since the beginning of the Madrid talks, that the issue of Jerusalem will be discussed in the final stages.

The discussion of the issue of the 1948 refugees has been postponed until the Palestinian authority completes building its structure. Jordan and Egypt will also participate in discussing this article in particular in the future.

Resolving the problem of refugees represents a political and moral priority for the PLO. However, with regard to Jordan, it constitutes an economic priority. We have to know how to deal with the right of a large number of people to return to their homeland.

Norway made a study of the situation in the occupied territory in general. We are now trying to make a similar study on the situation of the refugees in Jordan, because it is known that one half of the Palestinians in exile live in Jordan. It is correct that the refugees in the camps constitute a minor percentage, however, all of them have the right to repatriation. [passage omitted]

10 Parties Announce Candidacies for Elections

JN1810153693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Oct 93 pp 1, 18

[By Musa Hawamidah and Nayif al-Muhaysin]

[Excerpt] Ten Jordanian parties have officially announced their candidates for election to parliament. These parties are the Muslim Brotherhood, which has nominated 37 candidates; the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, three candidates; the Jordanian Communist Party, four candidates; the Popular Unity Party and Hashd [the Jordanian People's Democratic Party], seven candidates; the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, three candidates; the Socialist Democratic Party; seven candidates; the Progress and Justice Party, four candidates; and Du'a' [the Democratic Arab Islamic Movement Party], six candidates.

The al-Mustaqabal (Future] Party has not made any official nominations, but three of its members—Salamah al-Ghuwayri, Hammad Abu-Jamus, and Faysal al-Tayih—will run for parliament.

The Progressive Arab Ba'th Party and the National Jordanian Alliance Party have declared that they are not putting forward candidates for parliament.

Other parties, such as the Arab Democratic party, made no official nominations, but declared that they would support their candidates.

So did other parties. Although 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, secretary general of the al-'Ahd [Pledge] Party, and 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al- Rawabidah, secretary general of the al-Yaqazah [Awakening] Party, are standing for parliament, the two parties have not officially announced their participation in the elections.

This shows that less than 100 candidates of the 559 registered candidates have been officially or unofficially nominated by parties. [passage omitted]

Papers Carry IAF Electoral Advertisement

JN1810144693

[Editorial Report] Amman's three main Arabic daily newspapers—AL-DUSTUR, SAWT AL- SHA'B, and AL-RA'Y—on 18 October publish a half-page boxed electoral advertisement by the Islamic Action Front [IAF]. The advertisement calls for the election of 36 IAF candidates from 17 constituencies in Jordan's 8 November parliamentary election. The advertisement displays an individual photo of each candidate, identified by caption. The IAF slogan: "Yes, Islam is the Solution", flanks both sides of the advertisement.

The following IAF electoral platform positions appear at the bottom of the advertisement:

—Applying Islamic sharia in society;

—Fortifying the citizen against corruption and cultural invasion;

—Countering normalization with the Zionist enemy;

—Opposing policies seeking reconciliation with the Zionist enemy;

—Continuation of subsidies for basic supplies; subsidies must not be removed under any pretext;

—Working to abolish and amend certain articles of the Constitution to bolster democratization.

Hamas Hails King for Stand on Jerusalem

JN1710194893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has addressed a cable to His Majesty King Husayn expressing its appreciation for the serious Jordanian efforts to respond to the Israeli ruling that holy al-Aqsa Mosque is part of Israel, subject to Israeli rules and laws.

The cable, signed by Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of Hamas Political Bureau, said: We appreciate these serious personal efforts by your majesty, and by his highness the crown prince and all organs of the government. We emphasize to you that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, will continue its jihad for the restoration of al- Aqsa Mosque from the usurpers, alongside all Muslims all over the world, especially the steadfast Jordanian people, the real supporter of the Palestinian people in their jihad and sacrifices. Blessed are the hearts that still aspire to restore the land and the shrines.

Bin-Shakir Apppointment To Royal Court 'Timely'

JN1610104193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Oct 93 pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—In a top-level change widely viewed as "timely and especially significant," His Majesty King Husayn has appointed former Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir as chief of the Royal Court.

The appointment, which was accompanied by a minor reshuffle in ministerial ranks, was announced without fanfare on Thursday evening. But its significance goes beyond the fact that it is an in-house change at the Royal Court institution.

"It is true that His Majesty will be most comfortable working with a long-time friend and confidant as his top advisor," a well- informed source said.

"But the move is also politically significant in that al-Sharif Zayd will be bringing with him the experience and weight of a man who had just added to his record of long public service a two-year leadership of a parliamentary government," the source added.

Al-Sharif Zayd had occupied the job of Royal Court chief twice before—December 1988 to April 89 and December 89 to October 91.

He formed his first government in April 1989—after Jordan declared its intention to move towards a multi-party system—and oversaw the first fair and free elections in the country since 1956. He took over the reigns of the executive authority again in October 1991 after a confrontation between the government and Parliament that resulted from nationalist east Jordanian and the Muslim Brotherhood deputies joining hands to call for the resignation of then Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri.

Al-Sharif Zayd's second government was a right-of-centre coalition which largely pacified the opposition on the left and right of the political spectrum.

Al-Sharif Zayd resigned his post as premier in May of this year to pave the way for the present government of Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali—which amended the electoral law from a bloc-voting system to a one-person one-vote formula and is now preparing for the first multi-party elections in 37 years.

Al-Sharif Zayd's reentry into active politics with his weekend appointment to the Royal Court comes at a time of crucial political developments both on the local front and in the region, analysts and observers said.

His reengagement will also go a long way in underlining the King's commitment to "personally" ensure that the Nov. 8 national elections are held fairly and freely—a pledge His Majesty made in recent speeches and statements to the press.

Analysts believe that al-Sharif Zayd's combined experience as the premier who oversaw the 1989 national elections and success as head of a coalition government which brought the country out of a difficult economic situation and turbulent executive-legislative authorities' relationship "is a good record to have at the top at this time" as one analyst put it.

This and other analysts also expect that al-Sharif Zayd's good relations with different sectors of the political scene "will lessen the sense of political fragmentation" which has resulted from the Aug. 17 change of the electoral law and the signing of the Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) especially when the Kingdom is less than a month away from holding a national elections.

Al-Sharif Zayd's return (to the Royal Court) will help smooth out the rough edges of the past few months," a source close to the Royal Court told the JORDAN TIMES. The source said that the combination of the largely "technocratic government" of Dr. al-Majali and the relative inexperience of (former) Royal Court Chief Khalid al-Karaki had made politicians uneasy during the past several months."

"Greater balance should result from the appointment of al-Sharif Zayd, who has had a long first-hand experience with the day-to-day politics of the country," another analyst said.

Al-Sharif Zayd's job should be made easier by the concurrent appointment of former Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat—who is a veteran of Royal Court administrative and protocol duties—as an advisor to the King.

"Mr. Hikmat will probably be entrusted with many organisational duties that would leave the Royal Court chief with more time and space to deal with the political issues," the source close to the palace said.

Mr. Hikmat was replaced at the Ministry of Tourism by Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan, who resigned his post as chief of protocol at the Royal Court.

Dr. al-Karaki, who was awarded the al-Kawkab Medal of the First Order in appreciation of his exceptional service and commitment to his duties as chief of the Royal Court was appointed as advisor to His Majesty. He will also head the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al-Bayt Foundation). He replaced Dr. Nasir-al-Din al-Asad, who was awarded the al-Nahdah Medal of the First Order.

Ministry Plans To Establish Nuclear Energy Insitute

JN1910095593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources plans to set up a national and independent nuclear energy organisation and hopes that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will extend assistance to the ministry in this endeavour, according to 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Zu'bi, the ministry secretary general. Mr. al-Zu'bi made the announcement at the opening session of a two-day workshop on the use of nuclear and related techniques in plant nutrient and water balance studies, organised by the ministry in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the IAEA.

Al-Majali: 'No Interest' in Boycotting Arab States

JN1710192593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has emphasized that Jordan is always eager to have good relations with Arab countries. He pointed out that Jordan

is doing what it can so inter-Arab relations will be at their best in order to confront the challenges facing them.

At the weekly Central Bank of Jordan meeting this morning, the prime minister emphasized Jordan has no interest in boycotting any brother, pointing out that the higher interest of the Arab nation calls for realizing Arab solidarity among all Arab states.

The prime minister added: We must benefit from our past experience in the economic field, employing it positively to serve our national economy and industry, as well as our trade and exports during the next stage.

He pointed out that the public sector is there to serve the private sector, energize it, and minimize the fields in which the public sector intervenes in the economic activities.

Buwayz Briefs al-Hirawi; No Date on Bilaterals

NC1810132493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut today after participating in the Francophone conference. He briefed President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri on the outcome of his contacts. After meeting with Birri, Buwayz said that he has not received any information about a date or decision regarding the resumption of the bilateral talks.

He said: Naturally, my visits to New York, Los Angeles, and Washington focused on the peace process and ways of achieving Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territories in line with Lebanon's sovereignty and the state's demands.

Buwayz Issues Statement

NC1810204293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, followed by, following his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, in Beirut, on 18 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] After returning from my visit to the United States and attending the Francophone conference, I briefed his excellency the president on the details of these two tours. Regarding my visit to the United States, I got the impression that the U.S. Administration fully realizes that it is necessary to complement the Gaza-Jericho operation with fundamental progress on the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks. It is also certain that the U.S. Administration profoundly and essentially appreciates the need for a comprehensive solution. Hence, I imagine that Mr. Dennis Ross' regional tour, and the possible subsequent visits by other U.S. officials, might give fresh momentum to the negotiations.

Regarding the Lebanese position on this issue, during my visit to the United States I emphasized to the U.S. Administration that Israel must withdraw fully from the occupied Lebanese territories on an acceptable timetable and in a way that is consonant with the Lebanese state's sovereignty. I also discussed with the U.S. officials the Palestinian refugees' right of return and the reunion of families in a way that will guarantee that the problem posed by their presence in Lebanon will be solved. I believe there is full understanding of Lebanon's future regional role in the cultural, economic, financial, and political spheres. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, the U.S. envoy Mr. Ross is visiting the region [words indistinct].

[Buwayz] Certainly, Mr. Ross's tour seeks to bring the various parties' views closer together with the aim of resuming the negotiations. As for the issue of separating the negotiating tracks [words indistinct], Lebanon's position has been very clear and firm since the Madrid conference. Lebanon views this conference from two perspectives. The first deals with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425; in that connection, the Lebanese state is fully prepared to assume its responsibilities immediately after Israel withdraws from the occupied south. The second perspective is linked with the overall issue of peace, which I have described as the strategic part. Lebanon has repeatedly declared that it will not deal with this issue outside the context of inter-Arab solidarity, because it believes that peace must be the price for the return of all the Arab rights, not only some of these rights.

[Correspondent] (?In light of U.S. interest) and the impetus the United States is imparting to the peace quest, do you expect the next round of negotiations to produce a declaration of principles on the Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Syrian tracks?

[Buwayz] Certainly the United States is making intensive efforts. We sensed this during our meetings with President Clinton, Secretary Christopher, and other U.S. Administration officials. They realize that there must be essential progress in the peace process before the end of 1993. Hence, I imagine that the United States will throw its weight behind this quest. However, the issue does not so much hinge on the U.S. attitude as it hinges on Israel's responsiveness. The more committed Israel becomes to the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, the greater the likelihood that essential progress will be made.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, regarding Ross' visit and the current U.S. activity, will Lebanon have a share of this activity?

[Buwayz] Actually we have not yet been informed whether Mr. Ross will visit the region [as heard] or Lebanon. At any rate during my stay in the United States, I fully explained the Lebanese position, stressing all its details. If Mr. Ross comes, he is welcome. If he does not come, I believe we have already delineated all the aspects of the Lebanese issue.

Government Negotiations With Israelis Decried

NC1910091293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Let us agree that you will withdraw within six, eight, or five months. Give us this in writing and sign it. Say you will withdraw, then we will be responsible for ensuring security in the area. We are not saying we won't disarm Hizballah until the last Israeli soldier withdraws. We are saying: Give us a clear commitment, just a general commitment. This is the government's logic in the negotiations with the Zionist entity and these are the positions that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz are expounding during their secret meetings with the Zionists in various capitals and during the bilateral negotiations in Washington. They want to sell out the resistance for a mere promise by the Zionists to withdraw, because the enemies have not promised to withdraw from our land. The purpose of all

the current negotiations is to persuade them to announce their intention to withdraw. When this happens, the authority will move to slaughter the resistance and deliver it as easy prey to the Zionist beasts.

The government is not negotiating to regain the territory on the basis of its declared adherence to UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls on the Zionists to withdraw unconditionally. It is negotiating just to secure a pledge to withdraw. Then, it will be ready to perform its role, an example of which it gave in the 13 September massacre [the clash with Hizballah demonstrators in the Southern Suburb protesting the Gaza-Jericho agreement].

Today, with the visit to the region by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator on the peace negotiations, it appears that such a Zionist pledge to withdraw is more likely to be secured. This means the government is ready to shed blood and commit massacres to satisfy the Americans.

In these conditions, Islamic sources said the resistance cannot stop until the last Zionist soldier withdraws from our land. No promises and pledges can deceive the mujahidin, who realize the Zionists can never abide by a pledge or fulfill a promise.

Clashes With SLA, Israelis in South Reported

Lahd Patrol Attacked 15 Oct

NC1610074093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The occupation forces fired illumination flares last night over Marj 'Uyun, 'Alman, al-Tayyibah, al-Qantarah, Majdal Silm, and Mayfadun. The Zionist occupation forces also directed machine gun fire at al-Maslakh section of al-Nabatiyah.

Last night the Islamic resistance ambushed a Lahd foot patrol on the Tumat Niha-'Ayn Majdalun road, killing two of the patrol's personnel.

Israeli Post at Sujud Shelled

NC1610180893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Our correspondent reports that the hills of Mlita, Sujud, and al-Luwayzah in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under artillery shelling from Israeli posts in the occupied border strip at about 1700 today. REUTER cited security sources as saying that resistance men directed heavy-caliber machine-gun fire at the Israeli post of Sujud in the occupied security strip, and that the Israelis retaliated by shelling Iqlim al-Tuffah hills with 155-mm artillery.

UNIFIL Protests Israeli Attacks

NC1710114693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that Israeli gunboats have been cruising the coast from al-Naqurah to Ra's al-'Ayn-al-Rashidiyah since 1000 today. This is accompanied by Israeli warplane overflights.

The areas of Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli shelling at dawn today. Only material damage has been reported.

Commander of UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] General (Sont Hoffday) has expressed concern at Israeli attacks against UNIFIL positions. During a visit to the Nepalese contingents' position in Majdal Zun, which came under shelling last night, he said that he has submitted a protest to Israel, noting that it is high time to put an end to such attacks.

(Hoffday) affirmed that the peace march will not stop despite attempts to hinder security efforts. As UNIFIL, we work for peace, he said. We paid a high price for that, (Hoffday) said, adding: We will not cease to do our job until our mission is carried out and international resolutions are implemented.

Israeli Helicopter Overfly al-Biqa'

NC1810125093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli helicopters last night flew over Hasbayya, Marj 'Uyun, and western al-Biqa'. Israeli artillery fired flares over these areas. Israeli positions on al-Ahmadiyah hills opened fire at the al-Litani River basin and Mazra'at al-Dallabi in southwestern al-Biqa', causing material damage.

According to security reports from Hasbayya, the Israeli occupation forces have recently fenced off about 6 km of land south of al-Miri, in the Hasbayya area, and planted antitank and antipersonnel mines around it.

Two 'Zionist' Soldiers Wounded

NC1810074993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Two Zionist soldiers were wounded at the al-Dabshah position when the sniper unit of the Islamic Resistance fired at them at 1630 yesterday. According to Islamic Resistance sources, the enemy responded by raking the areas around the position, the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit, and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah. Two enemy helicopters overflew the area.

The enemy fired illumination flares over Wadi al-Saluqi, setting off fires in the fields. Zionist tanks were seen traveling from al- Dabshah to al-Hurj. The enemy also shelled the outskirts of Shaqra. Enemy helicopters flew over Majdal Zun, Zibqin, Shaqra, al-Dabshah, and al-Hurj at a low altitude.

Israeli Gunboats Cruise Off Tyre

NC1910121393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Western al-Biqa' has reported that Israeli aircraft carried out mock raids over a number of areas today.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats have been cruising off the Tyre waters since 1130 today.

Resistance Strikes 'Ali al-Tahir Post

NC1910082593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Zionist military helicopters continued to fly over the south throughout the night last night. Flares were fired over various villages adjacent to the occupied border strip.

A resistance group yesterday afternoon attacked the 'Ali al-Tahir position of the occupation forces, using automatic weapons and rockets. The enemy forces, which raked the area with machine-gun fire, have admitted that there was an attack, but they did not admit that there were casualties.

An agent militia patrol has advanced 2 km north of its position on Zaghlah hill. The patrol combed the Mimis valley and returned to its position.

Amal Claims Attack on Israeli Tank

NC1910104293 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The Amal Movement issued a statement today, saying one of its groups detonated an explosive charge under an Israeli Merkava tank on the al-Dabshah-al-Tuhrah road at 0500 today, wounding all its passengers. The statement added that the Israeli forces subsequently shelled the area from their positions in al-Zaffatah and carried out a large-scale sweep.

Talas: Gaza-Jericho 'Grave Offense' to Peace

JN1910081793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Beirut—Pursuant to the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, the deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, yesterday visited one of our combat units in Lebanon. Lt. Gen. Talas was received upon arrival at the unit's command post by the commander of the Syrian Arab Forces stationed in Lebanon, a number of ranking officers, and the brother fighters.

Lt. Gen. Talas delivered a speech in which he conveyed the greetings of struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad to the fighters in Lebanon and his wishes that they will succeed in performing their pan-Arab duties to strengthen the ideological role of the Syrian Arab Army in strengthening the unity and Arab identity of Lebanon—land and people. These duties have reinforced and consolidated fraternity between the two sisterly countries, Syria and Lebanon.

Talas then touched on the current peace process in the region. He noted the grave offense caused by the Gaza-Jericho accord to the march of the just and comprehensive peace and to the unity of Arab ranks. He noted the possibilities that could have been achieved through the talks had the coordination among the Arab delegations continued and had the Arab parties maintained their commitment to the bases of the peace initiative and the Madrid conference.

The defense minister stressed that Syria, under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, seeks peace but rejects bargaining over land and rights. Syria, he added, will continue to adhere to the principles of a just and comprehensive peace. He cited the president as saying: All others must know that we seek peace, but we do not beg for it. If others do not seek peace we will also adopt the same stand.

Concluding his speech, Lt. Gen. Talas urged the fighters to remain alert and to promote their standard of training and preparedness so that our Armed Forces will always remain at the highest levels of combat readiness to deprive the enemies of the opportunities to undermine our steadfastness. He called on the fighters to embody the eternal slogan: Martyrdom or victory.

The defense minister then left the unit's command post after he was accorded a warm reception.

Press on Peace Process, Israeli-Syrian Track

Demand for Withdrawal First Defended

JN1610082093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the recent Israeli statements on the peace talks and the Syrian position on them. TISHRIN says that to the Israelis, Syria's demands for a just, comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy mean intransigence, and its insistence on the liberation of the occupied territories first means evasion of the requirements of peace.

The paper says the lack of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track has nothing to do with Syria's demands for a just solution and a comprehensive peace. In fact, it is Israeli intransigence and maneuvers that are responsible for this stalemate. Israel frequently tried to render the talks aimless and peace unattainable, the paper points out.

TISHRIN says that every time discussions arrive at the fifth item on the Syrian document, the talks stumble and hit a deadlock. This is not because this item is the most difficult one, but because it is the real criteria for judging Israeli intentions on withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Throughout the talks, the Israeli delegation gave no real or convincing answers on this particular point. The Israelis took offensive positions to block the talks and, if possible, paralyze them. They want to delude the world into believing that if it were not for Syrian obstacles, as Yitzhaq Rabin recently remarked, peace would be imminent.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: However, the world and the U.S. sponsor in particular are not to be deceived by these Israeli tricks aimed at obscuring the facts. U.S. President Bill Clinton's statements after receiving President Hafiz al-Asad's message and the British Foreign Office statement declaring the date of Douglas Hurd's visit to Syria are the best proof that the Syrian demand for setting matters right is a sound position that will lead to peace. Any attempt to distort this position by any party will not serve the peace process. Any attempt of this kind will only harm the peace process and push the region to the edge of the abyss again.

'Seriousness' Prerequisite for Round 12

JN1710100193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH deals with the peace process and the U.S. Administration's effort to activate it through a visit to the region by U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross, to be followed by a shuttle tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

AL-BA'TH affirms that the Israeli side is not seriously working to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region. The paper says that if it senses seriousness on the part of Israel, Syria will certainly be ready to attend the next round of talks, in case it is held. However, if Syria senses otherwise, the papers says, it will certainly not attend.

AL-BA'TH adds that this position by Syria has not changed since the beginning of the peace process. It will never change because Syria is absolutely convinced of the need to arrive at a comprehensive solution on all fronts. Israel, on the contrary, is trying to impose the status quo on this or that Arab party. Syria absolutely believes in the need to establish a just, comprehensive peace in the region. It will continue to reject the logic of separate and partial solutions, which it deems as a definite loss for Arab rights and future.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Despite all that has happened, Syria will continue to work sincerely and seriously with all those concerned to achieve a just, comprehensive settlement. However, whoever believes that the policy of pressure and circumvention can make Syria change its positions is gravely mistaken.

Commenting on the same subject, TISHRIN explains that in view of the increased talk about a 12th round of talks, Syria can only reaffirm that it is necessary that this round must not be like the previous ones; that is, it must not be a waste of time, a squandering of the peace chances, and a threat to peace efforts. For this to be avoided in the next round, it is necessary for Israel to abandon its intransigence and to give up its conditions and dictates. It must fully respond to the true pillars, bases, and objectives of peace in accordance with Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, especially with regard to the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN explains that if Israel comes to the 12th round of talks—if it is held—with its known and previous stands and refusal to withdraw from the Golan Heights, then this will not be in the interest of peace. Syria is uninterested in and not responsible for Israeli traps. Syria is precisely aware of its options. It understands that the Washington talks have never been an end or an objective, but a means. It is necessary to utilize these talks in the interest of the peace process, not against it, as Israel wants and plans for. Israel wants to keep the occupied Arab territories and peddle its proposals and ideas on partial solutions and separate deals.

TISHRIN says: Syria made its stand absolutely clear in this regard when President Hafiz al-Asad clearly and unequivocally said: Others must understand that we want peace, but we do not beg for it. If others do not want peace, we will take the same position.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that when Shim'on Peres rules out any imminent progress in the peace talks on the Syrian track, this automatically means that Israel has deemed it worthless to exert any effort to activate the Middle East peace process.

AL-THAWRAH SAYS: Undoubtedly what Peres has said at this time in particular is aimed at embarrassing the United States, which is preparing to dispatch its envoy, Dennis Ross, to the region this week to look for appropriate means to advance the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: As it endeavors to achieve this goal, Washington will find itself in the face of an Israeli stand, which is ever getting more arrogant and inflexible. The U.S. Administration knows well that Peres' statement in which he ruled out any progress on the Syrian track means that Israel does not want to comply with the bases of the peace process, nor does it intend to abide by the relevant UN resolutions which Syria deems as the only gateway to peace. Perhaps this administration is aware more than anybody else that the absence of progress on the Syrian track may lead difficult and complicated problems that are detrimental to all the efforts that have been exerted to bring the peace process to existence.

AL-THAWRAH urges the United States, as one of the two cosponsors of the peace process, to deal with this sensitive issue seriously and firmly. The United States is also urged to utilize its available means of persuasion to make Israel give up the policy of separate deals and intransigence and to accept all the conditions which may lead to progress on all tracks of negotiations without exception.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Regional facts unequivocally affirm that peace is unattainable without Syria. Therefore, Israel should understand this fact well and should reconsider its stands which are contrary to a just, comprehensive peace. Israel should understand well that Syria, which adheres to peace and exerts every effort possible to arrive at it, does not bargain over land or relinquish rights. When Syria calls for peace, it calls only for a just, honorable peace that maintains rights and dignity and removes all forms of injustice and occupation.

'Obstacles' to U.S. Mission Noted

JN1810102493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "U.S. Diplomacy and the Difficult Mission," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Projections and interpretations about the regional tour of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, have already begun. Ross will be followed to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will make a similar tour to set a date for the new round of peace talks.

Reviewing the positions directly concerned with the peace process, we may say that Washington has assumed a full partner role and emphasized that it would promote the peace process according to the Madrid formula. If implemented or translated into reality, this U.S. position would be fair.

AL-BA'TH states that both the Arabs and the world accepted the Madrid formula because it is primarily based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. The Syrian and Lebanese positions show a genuine desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH continues: This positive attitude was shown by the Syrian and Lebanese negotiators throughout the previous rounds of peace talks. The paper points out that the peace talks continued without any breakthrough as a result of the Israeli intransigence, which made these talks futile and worthless. This has prompted Syria to once again caution against wasting time.

AL-BA'TH reiterates that Syria no longer needs to give more proof that the Israeli position is futile, especially since Rabin has called for separate negotiations, and hinted that he rejects the Madrid formula. This highlights the first obstacle facing the U.S. coordinator. It is one of numerous obstacles Israel is placing in front of the peace process.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The question posed is: To what extent will the U.S. role succeed in promoting the peace process? The outcome of Ross's and Christopher's tours will answer this question.

U.S. 'Enthusiasm' for Progress Lauded

JN1910091393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Separate and Partial Solutions Produce Disasters Only," AL-BA'TH says: At the outset of his Middle East tour, Dennis Ross has reaffirmed the U.S. Administration's commitment to achieving progress on all tracks of the Arab-Israeli talks. AL-BA'TH adds: In light of this, we can understand that the U.S. move aims at activating the stalled peace process. This shows that the U.S. Administration has become fully convinced that the Gaza-Jericho accord cannot bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region. On the contrary, it might bring about the opposite if Israel continues to consider this accord peace in itself.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria, which played the basic role in launching the peace process in Madrid—as the U.S. Administration itself admitted—has always reiterated, to all those concerned, its desire to see the region enjoy security, peace, and stability.

AL-BA'TH warns that it is impossible for separate and partial solutions to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Such solutions could create tension and major disasters. AL-BA'TH says: Hence, when Syria calls for a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle, it does so out of its full conviction and belief in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The paper adds that Syria has always warned that any crack in the Arab wall cannot obliterate the facts of conflict in the region that Israel is trying to bypass. It is impossible for the Arabs, particularly Syria, to accept what is less than the return of all our territory even if the conflict continues for thousands of years.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: In light of the statements made by Ross, Christopher, and President Clinton we feel, without doubt, the American enthusiasm for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We are not exaggerating when we say that this American stand is the result of the Clinton administration's conviction that if no progress is achieved on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks the whole peace process will remain shaky and vulnerable to collapse, particularly since the 'Arafat-Rabin agreement cannot bring about a stable, just, and comprehensive peace to the region.

Palestinians Urged To Exact Price for Peace

JN1610160593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: While negotiations were under way in Cairo and Taba between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and the Palestinian representatives on the formation of committees, work plans, and the mechanism to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was traveling to the end of the world to reap the benefits of peace.

Rabin was there to reap ripe fruit, and Peres is here to make far-fetched promises to Palestinians. This is the tree of peace whose seed was sown in Oslo. This tree is growing and providing fruit for Israelis, without giving anything to Palestinians.

The Israelis don't like to wait. They want to expedite reaping the political, economic, and diplomatic benefits. So, Rabin hurried to reap the fruit, leaving Peres here to make promises that will not be fulfilled. Peres, the architect of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, is very good at this. He does not give any decisive answers. He keeps everything frozen, from the simplest Palestinian rights to the subject of Jerusalem. He leaves doors open wide, but anyone who gets lost behind those doors is a loser.

While Peres procrastinates here—even on the little things given to Palestinians by the agreements—Rabin goes to the end of the world seeking a price for peace that does not exist, even on paper.

The Israeli prime minister chose one of the Arabs' and Palestinians' closest ally as his first stop. He chose a country held in high regard in the post-cold war period, thanks to its potential and its huge population. He did so to allege that peace in the Middle East is a reality, that the Gaza-Jericho agreement has resolved the Palestinian problem, and that this no longer represents an obstacle to the development of Israel's relations with that country.

The Israeli prime minister's second stop was the country of 100 million Muslims, the biggest Islamic country that hosted him in its capacity as the current president of the Nonaligned Movement. Rabin believes nothing justifies Israel's isolation from Islamic countries, although Jerusalem—their third holiest shrine—is not yet liberated,

will not be relinquished, and will continue to be the immortal capital of Israel, as he himself repeatedly asserts. Still, this holy city was not excluded from the list of promises included in the Israeli-PLO agreement.

As Rabin reaps fruit, and Peres continues to make promises, we pause to say to our overenthusiastic brothers: Wait and learn. Do not throw in all your cards without exacting a price. See how Israel, thanks to you, is reaping the fruits without paying a price. Think about what have you reaped so far, and what Israel has reaped.

Full Withdrawal for Full Peace Stressed

JN1810152093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel raised questions about the nature of peace whenever it was put in a corner about deciding on its position on withdrawal from the Golan. Israel used these questions to evade the requisites of peace. It became clear that Israel's adherence to this question, without explaining what it should do in return for peace, was designed to focus negotiations on the same infertile argument that prevented any progress during five rounds of the Washington talks.

It is known that in a bid to stop Israel's continuous attempts to evade the peace requisites, Syria presented the formula of full peace in return for comprehensive withdrawal. More than one international party concerned with the peace process found this formula acceptable. In its contents, it excels Resolutions 242 and 338, on the basis of which the peace process was held. Still, this did not prevent Israel from continuing to circumvent this formula and to search for anything that might undermine it.

In return for all the positiveness and seriousness shown by the Syrian delegation during the five rounds held after Rabin's government assumed power, and in return for all the response shown by Syria toward the efforts of the U.S. sponsor to advance the talks, Israel spared no chance to return the negotiations to the zero point, by changing the question about the nature of peace into an Israeli attempt to evade practical peace requisites.

On the eve of the 11th round, and during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, it seemed something new was taking place concerning the Israeli position when Yitzhaq Rabin spoke about encouraging signs. But, after the Israeli Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel again returned to evasion, concentrating on its magical question, which it realized is a successful formula for obstructing any progress toward peace.

Israel returned to this formula after it openly said it is not eager to see progress on the other tracks, and that it prefers to wait and to give priority to reaping the political benefits of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. At the same time, however, Israel's leaders are eager to avoid appearing as the ones who really obstruct progress in the talks. So, they concentrate on holding others responsible. This Israeli technique doesn't convince anyone, anymore.

The claim that Syria's demand for full withdrawal from the Golan in return for peace is like asking Israel to give a gift in return for nothing, as Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres alleged, is a silly and baseless claim. Full withdrawal is something called for by the UN resolutions, on the basis of which the peace process was held. It cannot be manifested as a gift presented by one party to another.

According to UN resolutions and the principles and charters of international legitimacy, Israel should withdraw from the land it occupied by force and aggression. Withdrawal from this land is not a gift or a favor from Israel to the other side. The return of land to its owners cannot be a gift from anyone.

No one asks Israel for anything more than abiding, just for once, by UN law and abandoning the law of the jungle. If it does so, the result will be a full peace that provides security, stability, and satisfaction to the whole region.

Afghanistan

President Discusses Gulf Tour, Need for Aid

NC1910075093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has said his current tour of Gulf states seeks to brief Gulf officials on the conditions in his country during reconstruction and development.

In an interview broadcast by the Voice of the Arabs today, the Afghan president said his country is passing through a difficult time. Its infrastructure was destroyed during the Soviet occupation. He said Afghanistan needs around $4 billion in aid to return life to normal, noting that 80 percent of the infrastructure, dams, roads, and communications with the outside world don't work.

President Rabbani praised the positions of the Afghan factions and parties on the Afghan people's issues. He pointed out that the current Afghan Government groups various trends. The Afghan president said his country is subjected to external plots, adding that some parties don't want Afghanistan to have security and stability.

Highway Closure Raises Fears of Kabul Food Shortages

BK1710095493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Kabul, Oct 17 (AFP)—A 30-man delegation left here by air Sunday [17 October] for the eastern city of Jalalabad in an effort to stop fighting there that has blocked supplies from reaching Kabul for the past week and sent prices of essentials soaring.

Government officials said the delegation, made up of military, civilian and religious leaders, would try to negotiate a ceasefire. It flew out shortly after dawn and was expected to return Monday after talks with the warring tribes.

Prices of wheat, rice, fuel, cooking oil and vegetables have soared here as a result of the fighting some 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of the capital.

Jalalabad sits astride the road, the main land link between Kabul and the Pakistan border.

"Kabul is like a house with only two doors—and if you close them those inside starve," said a merchant in Kabul's main bazaar, speaking of the Jalalabad road and the often snow-bound Salang highway which runs north to the border of the former Soviet Union.

The battle on the Jalalabad road is between the Pashtoon Ahmadzai tribe and the Jalalabad Jihadi council, and errupted after the assassination of a tribal leader last month.

"If this fighting doesn't stop quickly, we will finish our stockpiles and prices will double and even treble," said another merchant, voicing fears that the coming winter snow would also close the Salang road.

However General Momen, the man responsible for the Russian-built Salang tunnel through which all vehicles on the mountainous Salang road must pass to reach Kabul, told AFP here Sunday that he hoped to keep the northern road clear throughout the winter.

The general, who belongs to the National Islamic Movement which controls the provinces north of the Hindu Kush range, said he had personally paid the civilians manning the tunnel and that the tunnel ventillation system and had the snow ploughs and graders repaired.

Momen however said he would appeal to the United Nations and the international community for snow ploughs and bulldozers to augment his small "inadequate" fleet, and added that the Saudi government had already been approached for equipment to keep the tunnel open.

The Saudi Embassy here was unable to confirm the request.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Zia Receives Hindu Leaders

BK1710022093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad [Hindu Festival Celebration Council] called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia last night. They discussed a number of matters with the prime minister. The Parishad leaders said that they are facing some problems in some cases. The prime minister told the leaders that the government will look into their problem if there is any. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and State Minister for Forest and Environment Gayeshwar Chandra Roy were present.

The members of the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust also called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. They apprised her of different activities of the Trust and [words indistinct] extended an invitation to the prime minister on the occasion of the coming Durga Puja.

Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's Cyprus Visit

BK1710135593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will leave for Cyprus next Tuesday [19 October] to attend the biennial conference of the Commonwealth heads of states. This conference will begin next Thursday. The prime minister will be accompanied by, among others, the foreign minister, Mustafizur Rahman; the foreign secretary, Reaz Rahman; and her personal secretary, Dr. Kamaluddin Siddiqui.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, briefing newsmen in Dhaka today, said that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will meet the leaders of the Commonwealth member countries during the conference. He said this conference will give an opportunity to the leaders of the Commonwealth to review the world situation. During the conference, they will evolve measures for improving the human rights situation in the world.

Replying to queries, the foreign secretary said that the prime minister is expected to hold bilateral talks with the heads of governments of the member countries. Referring to the unusual delay in finding a just solution to the sharing of the waters of international rivers, including the Ganges, the foreign secretary said efforts to resolve these problems are continuing. The foreign secretary said that India is not affected by these problems but Bangladesh has become adversely affected. In this connection, the foreign secretary said that the Indian prime minister has come to realize the hardships of the people of Bangladesh due to the nonresolution of the water problems.

Opposition Program Against Government Announced

BK1710112193 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 11 Oct 93 p 1

[ITTEFAQ Report]

[Text] The main opposition party, Awami League [AL], has announced a program to stage a sit-in around the Bangladesh Secretariat [complex which houses all ministries of government] in Dhaka on 10 November to press realization of their seven-point demands. These demands include ouster of the government and repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance [ordinance which prohibits putting on trial those responsible for the killing of the former president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman]. This program was announced by the deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, Abdus Samad Azad, at a public meeting which he addressed in Dhaka yesterday after the successful observance of the opposition-sponsored countrywide strike against the government. Azad declared that their movement will continue till the fall of this corrupt government.

The other AL leaders who addressed the meeting included Mohammed Hanif, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofayel Ahmed MP, Abdur Razzak MP, Abdul Jalil, Mohammed Nasim MP, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Akhtarul Alam, Advocate Kamrul Islam, Faziuddin Miah, Abdus Salam, Salahuddin Badal, and Laizuzzaman.

Addressing the meeting, Abdus Samad Azad said that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has stated that she will not repeal the Indemnity Ordinance. The prime minister further said that she is not putting on trial the killers of the former president, Ziaur Rahman [Zia's husband]. Azad questioned why she is not holding the trial of the killers of late President Zia.

Azad further said that the prime minister has stated that the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami and its student wing the Chatra Shibir will not be banned, as demanded by the opposition. The AL leader said this will not be accepted by the opposition parties.

He said the prime minister has stated that those who give calls for the observance of strikes are not patriots. Azad defended themselves by saying that it is their constitutional right to give strike calls. The deputy leader of the opposition also blamed the prime minister for raising the Ganges water problem at the UN General Assembly without discussing the issue in parliament before leaving for the UN. He accused the government of not being sincere in resolving this problem as it did not make diplomatic efforts to include the water issue in the agenda of the UN session.

Addressing the meeting, AL MP Sajeda Chowdhury alleged repression of Hindus in the country and said that they are not being allowed to perform their religious rites. She demanded that the government create a congenial atmosphere so that the Hindus can celebrate their religious festival.

Abdur Razzak MP in his speech blamed the government for being undemocratic as it is not abiding by the pledges given before the elections. Referring to the recent elections held in Pakistan, he said the people of that country have rejected the communal forces.

MP Tofayel Ahmed, addressing the public meeting, said that, like the military rulers of the past, this government is also branding those who give calls for strike as unpatriotic elements. He said the fate of this government will be similar to that faced by the military rulers of the country. He alleged that corruption has become rampant in government and called for launching a movement to eradicate this social vice. The AL leader further alleged that the parliamentary committee formed to probe into allegations of corruption against the government is not doing any work. He said that he can produce evidence to prove that the agriculture minister is indulging in corruption.

Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu has said that the successful observance of the countrywide strike has proved that the people have no confidence in this government.

The Chief Whip of the opposition in the parliament, Mohammed Nasim, called for the launch of a vigorous movement against this corrupt government.

Another AL leader Mohammed Hanif called for an intensification of the antigovernment movement under the leadership of the AL chief, Sheikh Hasina.

Opposition Accuses Government of 'State Terrorism'

BK1810100093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 18 (AFP)—Bangladesh opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed accused the government

Monday [18 October] of "state terrorism" and of manipulating the democratic machinery.

Wajed, who heads the main opposition Awami League (AL) party, said repression of her party workers had "crossed all limits" and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government had become the rule of a "neo-autocrat."

"The government is trying to suppress the opposition's voice and resorting to state terrorism by using police and the Anti-Terrorism Act," she said.

The AL lost elections in 1991, the freest since independence in 1971, to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which formed a government initially with the help of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party. BNP now commands an absolute majority in the 330-member house.

Despite opposition cooperation and appeals, Wajed said, the government continued with "repressive acts."

"Any free and fair elections under this government are not possible as we have evidence of its manipulation in past polls," she said.

Zia, calling for unity on national issues, has banned opposition demonstrations and strikes, saying they created obstacles to greater democracy and her programme to improve the lives of Bangladeshis.

Wajed called for the repeal of the Anti-Terrorism Act and of the Indemnity Ordinance which bars the trial of the alleged killers of her father, Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Rahman and most of his family were killed in a 1975 military coup which toppled his post-independence AL government.

Despite the restoration of parliamentary democracy, an accountable government had yet to be established and the judiciary had not been separated from the administration, Wajed said.

"The judiciary is being influenced by the government."

The government violated fundamental rights, she said, by banning opposition rallies while it unleashed a reign of terror to cover its failures and the worsening law and order situation.

On the situation in Kashmir, she said the Hazratbal mosque and its sanctity "should be protected at any cost."

"As a Moslem myself I feel it is hurting the feelings of other Moslem Bangladeshis and I am concerned," she said

The government, which Sunday tightened security around Hindu temples to ensure safety of Bangladesh's largest minority group, has not commented on the issue.

The Kashmir incident sparked protests and demonstrations in Bangladesh, where 85 percent of its 110 million people are Moslems. Hindus constitute 12.1 percent of the population.

Repatriation of Tribal Refugees Likely To Begin

BK1810095393 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 11 Oct 93 p 1

[By Khagrachari correspondent]

[Text] Repatriation of tribal refugees of Bangladesh from Tripura State of India is likely to begin from the first week of November. This was stated MP Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, who is also a member of the committee formed by the Bangladesh Government to resolve the refugee problem. Chakma, who is himself a tribal, is also the chairman of the committee formed by the government for the repatriation and rehabilitation of the tribal refugees.

Addressing a meeting of the rehabilitation committee at the Khagrachari [District of Chittagong Hill Tracts] Circuit House on 9 October, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma said that diplomatic efforts are being made by the Governments of Bangladesh and India to resolve this problem as soon as possible. He said measures are being taken so that the repatriation can start from November. Chakma said that directives have been issued to the local administration to ensure that predicaments relating to the lands owned by these refugees are resolved before their arrival. He further added that the refugees will be temporarily housed in structures built by the local administration until they are able to construct their own houses. Chakma said that food relief will be given to the refugees after their arrival. This relief will continue until they are able to earn their own livelihood. Each refugee family will also be given Taka 10,000 and two bundles of corrugated iron sheets for constructing their houses and purchasing agricultural implements.

A source close to the government said that it will send a team to India on 14 October to expedite the repatriation process. The team members will be Kalpa Ranjan Chakma— MP of the opposition Awami League, and Shahjahan Chowdhury—MP of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party. During their 10-day stay in India, the team will hold talks with Indian officials in Delhi and Agartala. On 23 October, they will visit refugee camps in Tripura and hold talks with the representatives of the refugees.

It may be mentioned that on 23 September a 24-member team made up of representatives of the refugees and six Indian officials paid a five-day visit to the Chittagong Hill Tracts [CHT's] to see for themselves the conditions prevailing there. After concluding their visit they did not issue any official statement regarding the situation in the CHT's. They did not say whether conditions are sufficient for the return of the refugees or not. Recently two Indian officials—Krishna Arya and Arun Mathur—who were members of the delegation that toured the CHT's submitted their report to the state and the central governments respectively. In this report they stated that the

situation in the CHT's has improved but some problems still exist. But the chairman of the rehabilitation committee, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma and the member-secretary of this committee, Yaar Mohammed, who toured different areas of the CHT's along with the Indian team said that some of the local problems identified by the team have been resolved.

India

'Militants' Continue Occupation of Srinagar Shrine

Observers Invited To Assess Situation

BK1810160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1535 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] India has invited impartial observers, including foreigners, to the Kashmir valley to assess the situation caused by the occupation of the holy Hazratbal shrine by militants. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the government also welcomes media persons to visit the valley. He said that India has noted with concern the spurious and hysterical reaction of Pakistan to the developments.

In Srinagar, security forces are further intensifying their vigil in areas around the Hazratbal shrine to foil any attempt by militants to damage the shrine. This has been done after last night's rocket attack by militants. Efforts continue to persuade the militants to lay down arms and leave the shrine. The AIR Srinagar correspondent, Ajit Singh, who visited the area around Hazratbal shrine today, reports:

[Begin Ajit Singh recording] It was 2130 last night when a rocket was fired toward the Hazratbal shrine from Habak-(Naseem) area. The rocket fell on a road in the Kashmir University campus, creating a minor crator there. The spot was about 200 meters away from shrine complex. An army party, which was sent on search operation in Habak area around 2330, was also fired upon by AK-47 rifles, but it escaped unhurt.

Meanwhile, the divisional commissioner, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, and IG [Inspector General of] Police Mr. A.K. Suri held another round of discussion with the armed militants hiding inside the Hazratbal shrine. Some civilians were also involved in the discussions today. Authorities are tight-lipped over the progress of the parleys. The additional chief secretary, home [affairs], Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, and the director general of state police, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, told newsmen that government is taking all necessary steps to ensure that safety of the Hazratbal shrine is (?maintained), the shrine is intact and safe. They said people have maintained calm and militants' design of arousing people's sentiments have failed, as masses realized that militants were violating the sanctity of the holy shrine. Curfew continued in seven police station areas of old Srinagar city on the third day today. No untoward incident has been reported. Situation in other parts of the valley is also normal. General Officer Commanding in Chief Lieutenant General Surendra Singh visited the areas around Hazratbal shrine today and reviewed the security arrangements. [end recording]

Spokesman Issues Statement

BK1810164293 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1546 GMT 18 Oct 93

["Official spokesman's statement on situation regarding Hazratbal shrine"]

[Text] On the evening of 15th October, 1993, it was discovered that the locks of outer door of the shrine's safe room, where the holy relic is kept, have been replaced. When the administration was notified, they immediately informed the management who found, after a thorough search, that the inner door locks as well as the safe itself had not been tampered with. A large number of militants, estimated at about a hundred, and fully armed with sophisticated weapons, had taken up positions inside the shrine. The area was cordoned off by the security forces and some people in nearby houses were removed to the safety of temporary shelter elsewhere.

The militants have been firing on the security forces, and one civilian bystander was killed.

In a bid to escape, one building at the south-east corner of the shrine, used as a shelter for pilgrims, was set on fire by the militants. The fire was brought under control. The main building of the shrine is intact and undamaged. Any damage discovered later would undoubtedly have been caused by the terrorists—there are apprehensions that terrorists may do this to try and blame it on the security forces.

The security forces are exercising maximum restraint and none have entered the shrine. The militants have been asked to surrender and an assurance given that they would not be harmed if they did so and would be dealt with under the due process of law.

In this background, the statement issued by the Pakistani government stands revealed as what it is—a blatant falsehood and another attempt by pakistan to rake up communal and fundamentalist passions. The shrillness of the statement shows clearly their frustration at having failed in their conspiracy to damage the holy shrine. Indeed, for Pakistan, no shrine, not even this holy shrine of Islam, is holy enough to stop it from carrying on with its ugly, even though futile, designs against India. The Indian government has hard intelligence about Pakistan's direct involvement in this conspiracy.

It is, therefore, Pakistan and the terrorists inside the shrine, who are armed and aided by Pakistan, who are the real desecrators of this holy shrine. It is the Indian administration that has, in fact, managed to foil their conspiracy. The government of India hopes that the

terrorists will surrender peacefully without doing any damage to the main building of the shrine.

The Pakistani spokesman's statement is quite predictably a forerunner of other statements and resolutions which it will doubtless soon orchestrate in that country's institutions, and in every forum possible. Such propoganda and litany of baseless and motivated allegations will continue to be treated by the government of India as brazen falsehoods, and unacceptable.

Interior Ministry Issues Statement

BK1810170193 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1555 GMT 18 Oct 93

["Statement by Ministry of Home Affairs on attempts of sacrilege of Hazratbal shrine at Srinagar by militants and terrorist elements"]

[Text] On October 15, 1993 evening, it was brought to the notice of the state government of Jammu and Kashmir that a criminal conspiracy had been hatched by the militants, who were inside the holy shrine of Hazratbal, Srinagar, to desecrate the shrine and to also tamper with the holy relic of the prophet (Mo-e-Muqadas). The first attempt in this direction was made by the militants by breaking two locks of the outer door of the sanctum sanctorum. These locks have been installed by the management of the shrine. The militants could not execute their design as their conspiracy got to the notice of the state authorities. The state government intervened timely, before the militants could break the lock of the inner door of the sanctorum.

To prevent the desecration of the shrine, tampering of the holy relic and to maintain public order, the state government got swiftly cordoned the area around the shrine by the security forces.

The state government have appealed to the militants inside the shrine to come out and surrender. In this connection, senior officers of the state government talked to some of the militants inside the shrine from a close range. It appears that while some of the militants appeared willing to come out they were prevented from doing so by the hard-core elements inside the shrine.

In the early morning of October 16, 1993, the security forces were fired upon by the militants hiding in the premises of the shrine. This resulted in the death of one civilian.

Yesterday afternoon the militants set fire to a barrack located southeast of the shrine. The barrack was partly used for providing temporary shelter for pilgrims visiting the shrine. The fire was brought under control. Ex-gratia relief is being paid to the occupants of the five adjoining houses which were damaged due to the barracks being set on fire.

As a precautionary measure, the people living in the close vicinity of the shrine, within the cordoned off area, have been provided alternative shelter and essential supplies, till they can shift back.

Curfew has been clamped in several areas of the old city, as a precautionary measure.

It may be seen that in their continuing effort to destablise the Kashmir valley the militants and terrorist elements have not even spared a place of worship. They have been using the shrine as a safe haven from where they operate to carry out their dastardly activities in the valley. Now they have descended to even attempting the sacrilege of the shrine to spread unrest and tension among the people of the valley.

A copy of the press handout released in srinagar by the J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] government is enclosed for your information. The state government is taking effective steps to deal with the problem of militancy under the law of the land and at the same time ensuring that no innocent citizens are put to undue inconvenience.

As vested interests are likely to use this incident for carrying out mischievous propaganda, the about [as received] is being sent for your information so as to enable you to effectively counter any propaganda that these vested interests may resort to.

Press hand out released in Srinagar by the J and K govt.:

A criminal conspiracy of the most heinous nature has come to light. As the public is aware that the premises of the holy shrine of Hazratbal have been frequently misused by the militants for activities deterimental to its sanctity such as display, storage of weapons, torture of captives and brow-beating of law abiding citizens. To a great extent, this has caused resentment among the people. However, because of the fear of the gun, they have not publicly voiced grave concern of this sacrilege of the shrine. On October 15, 1993, it was brought to government's notice that two locks on the outer door of the safe room of the shrine were replaced. Immediately, the management was informed and they carried out a thorough search which revealed that the inner door lock was not tempered with and was intact. Also the management verified that the seals of the safe were intact and the mischievous attempt was unsuccessful. To ensure the safety of the shrine and to ensure public security, the government cordoned off the area and is asking the militants to come out of the holy shrine and give themselves up, whereupon law of the land will take its own course. The government is also determined to provide security to the public and is warning the militants not to endanger the public life and property and ensure the sanctity of the holy shrine. The public is well advised not to pay any heed to mischievous, motivated rumours and to maintain calm.

Security Forces Intensify Siege

BK1910010293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, security forces have further intensified their vigil in areas around the Hazratbal shrine to foil any attempt by militants to damage the shrine. Efforts continue to persuade the militants to lay down arms and leave the shrine. Curfew continues in seven police station areas of old Srinagar city. No untoward incident has been reported. The situation in other parts of the valley is also normal. The GOC [General Officer Commanding] and chief [as heard], Lieutenant General Surendra Singh, visited the areas around Hazratbal shrine yesterday and reviewed the security arrangements.

Officials Ask for Release of Civilians

BK1910030893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has appealed to the militants hiding inside the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar to allow children, women, and old people to come out of the shrine. This was conveyed to the militants when a team of senior government officers held three rounds of negotiations with the militants last evening. According to official estimates, there could be up to 100 civilians besides about 50 militants inside the shrine.

Our Srinagar correspondent, Ajit Singh, reports there is no change in the situation at the Hazratbal shrine. The security forces are maintaining a vigil around it. Additional security forces were deployed in all the areas around the shrine yesterday, after the militants fired a rocket toward the Hazratbal shrine. The rockets fell about 200 metres short of its target.

Meanwhile, curfew continues in the seven police station areas of old Srinagar city on the fourth day today. The situation in other parts of the valley is normal. Our correspondent who visited Srinagar along with a press party, including several foreign correspondents, reports that the shrine is fully safe. General Officer Commanding in Chief, Northern Command, Lieutenant General Surendar Singh, visited the shrine and reviewed security.

Pakistanis Believed Inside Shrine

BK1910091893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0914 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 19 (AFP)—The Kashmir government charged Tuesday [19 October] that a number of Pakistani nationals may be inside the besieged Hazratbal mosque, where Muslim militants have been holed up for the past four days.

Kashmir spokesman Ram Mohan Rao said the presence of an unspecified number of Pakistanis inside the complex appears to be the main reason for the reluctance of the Muslim militants inside the shrine to surrender.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Muslim militants seeking the secession of the northern border state claimed by both countries.

Islamabad vehemently denies the allegations but extends moral and political support to the separatist drive, which has left 7,000 people dead since 1989.

The statement on the possible presence of Pakistanis in the shrine came on the heels of an Indian government claim of holding "hard evidence" of Islamabad's involvement in the crisis in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

The allegation also follows the overnight expulsion by India and Pakistan of four embassy personnel each. New Delhi's action has been described as "retaliatory" by Islamabad.

Rao said the militants inside the Hazratbal mosque, the holiest Islamic shrine in Kashmir, may be reluctant to give up because of the Pakistanis allegedly hiding in the shrine.

"It would be embarrassing for them to be exposed. The suspicion is that the militants want Indian soldiers to withdraw to enable the foreigners to leave the place quietly and unnoticed," the spokesman said here.

The Moslem rebels barricaded inside the complex since Friday have demanded the withdrawal of the thousands of troops surrounding Hazratbal.

The spokesman did not say how many Pakistanis were allegedly holed up with the 50-odd Kashmiri militants, but described them as "agents" from the neighbouring country, which too has demanded the withdrawal of the troops.

"This sensitive issue is hampering negotiations," he said.

Meanwhile, military commanders were meeting in here Tuesday to discuss the situation at the shrine, army sources said.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's independence in 1947.

Kashmiris March; Mediators Withdraw

BK1910111193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1037 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 19 (AFP)—Some 500 Kashmiris began marching Tuesday [19 October] on the Hazrabal mosque to protest an army siege of the shrine where dozens of Moslem militants have been holed up for four days, witnesses said.

Kashmiri politician Abdul Gani Lone led the march which began from the Batmaloo neighborhood of Srinagar, 13 kilometres (7.8 miles) from the shrine.

Indian security forces maintained a heavy presence in the Lal Chowk (Red Square) district of downtown Srinagar

which the marchers would have to pass through on their way to Hazratbal, under army siege since Friday night.

Two prominent Kashmiris pulled out Tuesday from efforts to mediate a peaceful end to the four-day-old Indian army siege of Moslem guerrillas barricaded inside the holy Hazratbal shrine.

Abdul Majid Wani said he and Abdul Kabir Sheikh had withdrawn from the negotiations, accusing the Indian government of not being keen on a quick settlement.

Both are fathers of prominent Moslem rebels slain by Indian security forces and were brought in Monday to assist in efforts to break the standoff at Hazratbal, Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine.

Wani said both the government and the rebels inside the mosque had placed pre-conditions which were irreconcilable.

The government was insisting on a surrender of the militants and that it be given custody of the holy relic housed in the shrine—a single hair Moslems believe comes from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad.

The rebels wanted the government to lift a curfew clamped on much of Srinagar to enable civilians to march on Hazratbal and to hand over the relic to religious figures and prominent Kashmiri citizens.

Wani said he had told the government to send food and water into the mosque sufficient for 200 people but the authorities were apparently unwilling, adding that he felt the government "is not interested in settling the issue."

"They intend to delay ... under the cover of negotiations. So I have withdrawn myself, and also my friend has withdrawn, from the mediation efforts," he said.

Thousands of Indian army troops surrounded the Hazratbal shrine on the banks of the Nagin lake Friday night to rid the marble complex of dozens of Moslem militants hiding inside.

Soldiers Break Up March

BK1910125293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1251 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Oct 19 (AFP)—Club-wielding Indian troops broke up an attempt by Kashmiri Muslims to march on the besieged Hazratbal mosque here Tuesday [19 October] as talks aimed at ending the four-day standoff remained deadlocked.

Thousands of Kashmiri Muslims defied a curfew and poured into the streets of Srinagar after paramilitary forces used smoke bombs and batons to thwart an attempt by some 500 people to march on the lakeside shrine, witnesses said.

Two Kashmiri Muslims brought in as mediators announced meanwhile they were withdrawing from negotiations aimed at ending the tense standoff between Indian troops and several dozen armed Muslim rebels holed up in [words indistinct].

Prominent Muslim politicians led the marchers who assembled in the Batmaloo area of Srinagar at the end of a 24-hour ultimatum they had set for the army to pull back from around Hazratbal.

Troops ruthlessly beat some of the protestors after stopping them on a bridge some 10 kilometres (six miles) from their destination, witnesses said.

Abdul Ghani, a march leader, said 30 people were injured in the action which he called "totally unprovoked."

Thousands of Kashmiris chanting "Break the siege, break the siege," spilled into the streets of downtown Srinagar and set off for the downtown Lal Chowk (Red Square) after the troops foiled the protest march, witnesses said.

"We are with you, the militants of Hazratbal," they chanted.

Army and paramilitary troops were deployed in strength at Lal Chowk to stop the protestors, some of whom were carrying Pakistani flags, from proceeding further to Hazratbal. [passage omitted]

Janata Dal Leader Criticizes Pakistan

BK1910033293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The former external affairs minister and Janata Dal leader, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has described Pakistan's reaction over the Hazratbal Shrine incident as brazen interference in India's internal affairs. In a statement, he said it is the responsibility of the government to protect the holy shrine which is part of our heritage and to ensure that the militants do not spoil its sanctity. Mr. Gujral asked the Pakistan Government to take steps to see that vandals do not get encouraged to damage places of worship in the country.

Spokesman Rejects ICO Chief's Remarks

BK1910154193 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1451 GMT 19 Oct 93

["Official Spokesman's Statement dated 19-10-93"]

[Text] Government of India have seen the statement of the secretary general of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], made yesterday, on the events at the Hazrabtbal mosque in Srinagar. The statement is one sided and has been issued without relevance to the facts. The responsibility for the acts of arson and intimidation of those frequenting the mosque rests with the terrorists who have desecrated the mosque and even threatened to blow it up. As we had indicated yesterday, government of India have evidence that these terrorists have been armed and aided by Pakistan. The secretary general of the ICO has not only ignored the fact that it is the

terrorists who are responsible for the escalation of tension, but has also made unacceptable observations and gratuitous recommendations with reagrd to the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. We deplore and reject these sweeping, simplistic and biased references.

Troops Kill 11 Kashmiri 'Militants' in Bandipora

BK1710095093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 17 (AFP)—Indian security forces shot dead 11 suspected Moslem militants in a gunbattle Sunday [17 October] in the Kashmir valley, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The shootout took place in the town of Bandipora, the news agency said, adding that a "big cache" of arms and ammunition had been captured from the slain militants.

PTI described the incident as the second major blow to Moslem militants in 24 hours following the killing Saturday of five rebels of the Al Burq secessionist group in the town of Handwara.

The gunbattle coincided with the continuing army siege of Kashmir's holiest shrine, Hazratbal, in the city of Srinagar. The siege was laid Saturday to flush out some 50 rebels holed up inside the complex.

Government Policy on Kashmir Insurgency Examined

BK1810130193 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 12 Oct 93 p 13

[By Amrik Singh]

[Text] Since early 1990, a certain mode of containing the insurgency (if that is the word) in Kashmir Valley has been followed. For the sake of convenience, it may be described as the Jagmohan [former governor of Kashmir] model. Whether it was clearly thought out or it was a response to the situation as it arose during the early months of 1990, the essence of it was to contain the discontent that had burst out with a certain amount of virulence and to subdue the militants.

Without tracing the details of what has happened during the last three years and more, two things stand out. One, the militants (assisted with lavish support from Pakistan) were able to call the shots almost throughout 1990 and even the early part of 1991. This happened largely because the Government of India was caught off guard and took some time to react and to organise things.

Before things went out of hand in 1990, alienation from the State Government then in power had been growing apace. It was in that phase of the worsening situation that bus drivers in Sopore and several other places openly hawked visits to Islamabad and back. Thousands of people took advantage of it and made trips to Pakistan. These trips sometimes, perhaps often, meant being trained in the use of arms and provision of firearms which were then smuggled into the Valley.

Gradually, however, things began to change. For example, the number of persons apprehended near the border during 1990 was 1,303. In 1991, it came down to 361 and in 1992 to 57. These figures indicate two things; first, that not as many people were going or coming as in earlier years and, secondly, border vigilance had become more effective.

This brings us to the second dimension of the situation. As the security forces got better organised, they started becoming more effective. In terms of persons apprehended from within the State, the numbers are equally revealing. In 1990, 3,920 persons were arrested; in 1991, the number went up to 5,221 and in 1992 it was 6,707.

While quite some persons were possibly arrested wrongly, it is clear that the security forces had begun to make a difference to the situation. Before 1992 was out, it became more and more clear to every one that the security forces were getting the better of the militants and, broadly speaking, that continues to be the case even.

In a sense, therefore, it could be said that the Jagmohan model had worked. But the price paid was extraordinarily high. This price was paid in terms of the alienation of the vast masses of the Kashmiri people. Today while the land is held by India, the people are not with India. This may be putting it starkly and may even amount to overstating the case. But the uncomfortable fact remains that this is the situation. Even a casual visitor to the Valley cannot miss the widespread degree of alienation from India.

In seeking to understand the situation, we should not forget the role of the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence of Pakistan] and certain other sections of the local population. The fear of the gun is a real potent factor even today. Even though it has declined to some extent, it has not disappeared. This is evident from one simple factor. Most of the older political leaders have moved out of the Valley, either to Jammu or to Delhi or other places.

Yet another factor in the situation is the international dimension of the problem. Without question, Pakistan has been able to mobilise considerable support for the cause of Kashmir. Her own support (when for example it came to crossing the Ceasefire Line) was cautious; Pakistan did not choose to violate the international law. But when it came to mobilising diplomatic support, she was able to do it fairly effectively. More precisely, it has been a cat and mouse game. Sometimes India has been outmanoeuvred and sometimes Pakistan.

But the one thing that has emerged with a considerable degree of salience on the international plane during this period is that the human rights dimension has become more and more central in respect of what is happening in Kashmir. In fact, Pakistan's strategy has been to focus on the violation of human rights and India's endeavour has been partly to rebut this argument, partly to dilute it, and

partly to anticipate the likelihood of this argument becoming more and more pertinent. The proposal to set up a Human Rights Commission in India largely flows from this compulsion. Whether it would accomplish that purpose or not is another question.

And this brings us to the second model of dealing with Kashmir. For the sake of convenience, it may be described as the Tarkunde model. Justice Tarkunde has been a long time champion of human rights and is usually regarded as the doyen of civil right activists. There are hundreds of other people working in the same area and a large number of them are making valuable contributions to the establishment of a more just and a more humane society in India.

For the past several years, the Tarkunde model was regarded as much too idealistic and presumably marginal to the situation in Kashmir. He himself has been to Kashmir a couple of times during the last three-and-a-half years. Each one of these visits has confirmed what people know: the rule of law is being violated in that State systematically and cynically. This is not to deny that the militants too are doing the same. In several reports both national and internationai, their role has come in for severe condemnation. There is also another angle to it, however.

India has alleged repeatedly and with a certain degree of factual documentation, that the ISI is arming these militants and extending other kinds of help. This has, therefore, led to criticism of Pakistan by the U.S. and several other important countries. Pakistan does not want to be declared a 'terrorist state'. And it appears that Pakistan is now in the process of shifting gears. Likely enough, it would adopt new tactics now.

This became somewhat evident in July 1993 when the massacre of a family, including that of a young boy, led to prolonged protests in the city of Srinagar. What had happened was clearly indefensible. However, what was new was the fact that people were defying curfew and all other restrictions day after day and demonstrating repeatedly. A good deal of it stemmed from genuine indignation but a part of it could have been manipulated also. The point of saying all this is that the old tactics were not proving as productive of results and new tactics were now sought to be adopted.

There is nothing very original about most of the things described above. The question is: in this changing situation what is it that India should do and what is it that Pakistan can do or is doing to keep things on the boil?

Unless one's perception is seriously wrong, it is clear that the Jagmohan model cannot be sustained any longer and now the Tarkunde model would have to be adopted. The essence of the second model is that while militants have to be opposed (and combated) in every possible way, it does not follow that, even if some people happen to be their sympathisers, they should have their freedom curbed or are subjected to indignities and worse. In other words, civil rights should be available to everyone and whatever is done in order to contain the situation has to be done in a legal way.

One message that has been borne in upon the people in the Valley during the last few troubled years is that India cannot be driven out of Kashmir. Indeed she is there to stay. Nor can Pakistan do anything more than what she has already done. In other words, as some perceptive observers put it in the Valley, Pakistan would keep on fighting till the last Kashmiri militant. [sentence as published] Where would it all lead to? This question is being asked, even if tentatively.

Nowhere, except the status quo and that works against the Valley. Therefore, people are prepared to look at alternatives. But what comes in its way is the unremitting hostility, even hatred, of India which the common man by and large has and makes no secret of.

It is this emotional barrier together with the fear of the gun which is coming in the way of a political shift. While the security forces are attending to the second task, hardly anything is being done in respect of overcoming the emotional barrier. Not even such an obvious thing as a properly functioning Grievance Redressal Machinery. Is it too much to ask for such a machinery in Srinagar and each district headquarter? This is about the minimum that a civilised country must do.

Four Pakistani Diplomats Expelled 18 Oct

BK1910005093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] India has expelled four Pakistani diplomats for indulging in activities incompatible to their diplomatic status. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that they have been given two weeks' time to leave the country. The joint secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. Bhadrakumar, summoned the political counsellor to the Pakistani High Commission, Mr. Zamir Akram, to the South Block [in the External Affairs Ministry] yesterday and conveyed the government's decision regarding the expulsion. Those expelled include the first secretary, Mr. Sanaullah, his assistant and a staff member from the High Commission in Delhi, and Mr. Sahabzada Khan of the Pakistan Consulate in Bombay.

Spokesman Reacts to Pakistani Expulsions

BK1910125693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi has described the expulsion of four Indian officials by Islamabad as yet another attempt to create difficulties in the functioning of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi. Responding to questions by newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the reasons given by Pakistan for the expulsion are totally baseless and incorrect. He said we all are aware of the fact that Islamabad does not encourage people-to-people contacts and does not issue visas for the Indian people, even for those who are posted there in

replacements. As reported, in a retaliatory move, Pakistan yesterday expelled four officials of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi.

Rao Congratulates Bhutto on Assumption of Office

BK1910124493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Ms. Benazir Bhutto was today sworn in as the new prime minister of Pakistan. The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, administered the oath of office to Mrs. Bhutto at a glittering ceremony in Islamabad this afternoon. The president also administered the oath of office to two cabinet ministers—Mr. Farooq Ahmad Leghari and Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani. Earlier, Ms. Bhutto was elected as leader of the house at a special session of the Nation Assembly.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has felicitated Ms. Bhutto. In his message, he said New Delhi looks forward to working with Islamabad for the promotion of peace and stability in South Asia and in building up harmonious relations among the nations of the region.

Janata Dal Leader Ajit Singh Resigns From Party

BK1910145693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The former union minister and Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ajit Singh, has resigned from the party. Announcing his resignation, Mr. Ajit Singh said in New Delhi today that the unity of the Janata Dal factions is aimed more against Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav than the communal forces. He said this unity will help communal forces in the ensuing assembly elections, as it is going to divide the secular votes.

Home Minister on Russian Accord, Foreign Inteference

BK1910004893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi today asserted that it will not allow external interference to vitiate India's democracy and unity, and territorial integrity. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that terrorists and their external supporters have underestimated the strength of India's democracy and secularism, and the courage of its security forces. Mr. Chavan was speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of his Russian counterpart, Mr. Viktor Yerin, in New Delhi. He said there has been an alarming increase in terrorism and drug trafficking, and such crimes seriously affecting human rights and socioeconomic development. One of the major challenges before the international community today is to cooperate to put an end to cross border terrorism. In this context, the Indo-Russia agreement signed today will be an important milestone in combatting this menace. The agreement seeks to prevent illegal migration and illicit stay of persons, and search for criminals preparing to commit crimes or absconding from competent authorities. The agreement which comes into force today will be valid for five years and provides for an extension of three years, unless otherwise desired.

Later, the Russian minister called on the minister for external affairs, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and briefed him on recent developments in his country.

Radioactive Material Retrieved From Madras River

BK1810130893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] A highly radioactive material, cesium, has been successfully retrieved from the Cooum River in Madras today. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board chairman, Dr. Gopalakrishnan, told our Madras correspondent that the material was intact and absolutely safe. Further efforts are on to retrieve other radioactive material also.

Commentary Views Incident

BK1910042693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Commentary by Madras correspondent K. Ganeshan]

[Text] The city of Madras heaved a big sigh of relief last evening when the strongest radioactive material Cesium-137 was successfully retrieved from the deep slush of the Cooum river. Hectic efforts by the scientists of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and the Bhaba Atomic Research Center yielded good results. Not long ago, an international offshore logging company engaged by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC] reported the theft of these materails from its premises. A police complaint was lodged by the company. Immediately, a team of scientists from the Radiation Protection Services stationed at Madras Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam started search operations using sensitive instruments. When the event took a bigger turn, the case was shifted to the crime branch and three employees of the company were arrested under TADA [Terrorist and Distruptive Activities Prevention Act] considering the dimension of the offense. Based on the confession of the accused, a team of scientists headed by Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, searched more than 500 km of roads and waterways in the city. After several radioactive sensitivity tests, the radioactive material was suspected to be lying under the Napier bridge of the Cooum river where it joins the sea.

Meanwhile, doubts and apprehensions started growing in the minds of the people about possible radioactive threat to the city of Madras. The limited gadgets and tools available, an incessant rain, and the thick slush made the task of retrieval all the more difficult. Technical discussions were held among the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, ONGC, IIT [Indian Institute of Technology] Madras, and some leading construction companies to examine the options for isolating a limited area in the river where the radioactive sources were suspected. A

small earthen cofferdam was built and water was pumped out. Following more radioactivity tests, the exact position of the radioactive material was located.

Meanwhile, the crime branch continued their interrogation with the accused and three more persons were detained under TADA. Scientists are of the hope that two other materials—Amerisium and Berylium will also be taken out by specially devised scoop. However, the matter does not end here. It raises many pertinent questions regarding strengthening of regulatory measures. These radioactive substances, which are used to test oil content in the wells of the ONGC both on land and offshore, pose serious hazards to life, if left uncontrolled.

Iran

Joint Search With Iraq for MIA's Proposed

LD1810174693 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—Tehran has proposed the formation of a joint committee with Iraq to search for the bodies of those killed in the 1980-88 war between the two countries, a senior military official said on Monday.

"The formation of such a committee, welcomed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Iraq, will play a key role in deciding the fate of those declared as missing in action (MIAs)," Brigadier General Mir Feysal Baqerzadeh said.

Baqerzadeh, head of the committee for MIAs at the Islamic Republic Armed forces command headquarters, said that if established Iran would assign 12 battalions to search for the bodies of martyrs throughout battle zones.

He said that based on documented evidence, 80 percent of the bodies of Iranian martyrs left over from the 1980-88 war are lying inside Iraqi territory. Iran and Iraq have each delivered 2,000 bodies of war victims to each other, he said.

Deciding the fate of the MIAs fully depends on cooperation and friendly relations between Tehran and Baghdad, the military official pointed out. He said the Islamic Republic was ready to bear all expenses for locating and recovering the bodies of war victims both Iranian and Iraqi, inside Iraqi territory. Iran is also prepared to deliver to Iraq the bodies of a large number of dead Iraqi soldiers recently discovered in battle fronts, the official said.

During their search for war victims, 10 Iranian people attained martyrdom after stepping on land mines left over from the Iraqi imposed war, 10 others became disabled and 11 were taken captive by Iraqi troops, he said.

The brigadier general lauded Iraqi Kurdish refugees and those living in northern Iraq for locating and delivering the bodies of Iranian martyrs to Iran. In recognition of such a service, Iran's Red Crescent Society has despatched 100 tons of flour, thousands of blankets and a great deal of medicine to northern Iraq, he said.

The proposed committee in charge of locating the bodies of war victims is composed of representatives of the Red Crescent Society, Shahid (Martyr) Foundation, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Army, Foreign Ministry, Security Information Ministry and the Armed Forces command headquarters.

The mission of the committee is to find the bodies of martyrs, confirm the martyrdom of those listed as MIAs, gather information on MIAs and exchange bodies of war victims and make diplomatic efforts to throw light on the fate of MIAs.

Prospects for Improved Ties With Iraq Viewed

LD1810195093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The presence in Baghdad of Mohammad Javad Zarif, deputy minister of foreign affairs in charge of international affairs, is being followed with keen interest by political circles, especially since it is taking place at a time when the ties between the two countries are not governed by a stable situation.

What is certain is that at this juncture a visit to Iraq by an Iranian official cannot be viewed as normal. Iraq is suffering from full isolation in the region as well as in the world. Meanwhile, it is under an international political and economic embargo. Any visit to Iraq, therefore, would be a valuable opportunity for the Iraqi officials and could activate that country's muffled foreign policy.

Unfortunately, since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Government of Iraq has shown no good will in having friendly relations with Tehran. Iraq's attempts to get close to Iran during the petroleum war [Gulf war] can never be a criterion for learning Baghdad's real and natural motives. The adoption of such a position was Iraq's response to the critical conditions in which it had implicated itself.

Unfortunately, Iraq resumed its unfriendly policy toward Iran after the end of the Persian Gulf war, hoping that this way the West would reward Baghdad by forgiving its sin in attacking Kuwait.

Meanwhile, in addition, by giving a free hand to Iran's opposition in that country to carry out political and military acts of sabotage against our country, Iraq removed any ground for improvement in the two countries' relations.

Tehran cannot overlook these facts nor, on the other hand, can any interesting issues be observed in Iraq's policy for the sake of which Iran would wish to forget past mistakes. So long as Baghdad continues its hostility,

arising from its inferiority complex, against Iran and exploits it whenever the opportunity arises, then, evidently, no improvement in relations between the two countries is possible.

What is evident is that Iran's foreign policy in relation to Iraq does not stem from unrealistic calculations. Nor is it subject to the logic and political behavior of others. Rather, it undoubtedly accords with rational and independent thought based on pragmatism.

Iran and Iraq are neighbors and will remain so to the end of history. The peoples of Iran and Iraq are kith and kin and the eight-year imposed war did not alter this reality. Apart from this, the factors that bring the Governments of Iran and Iraq closer together are more numerous than those that keep them apart. History, geography, and the developments currently taking place in the world of Islam make it vital for them to talk and reach understanding. It is not wise for relations between two neighboring countries to be subject to short-term variables [moteghayer-haye maqta'i] or for the outstanding problems between them to continue without any practical initiatives to remove them.

Meanwhile, a factor which is of the utmost importance is that the desired agreement should be based on strong foundations. Iran would like an Iraq that is whole, one that plays a positive role in the Arab and Islamic worlds. Iran hopes that Iraq, which has been a defender of the Palestinian issue, will regain its past role, particularly at this sensitive juncture when others are trying to hatch a great conspiracy in Palestine. Iran wants Iraq to be rid of its old political hang-ups and to have natural relations, far from a policy of bullying, with its neighbors.

It is Iran's constant, declared stance that security measures in the Persian Gulf can only be adopted when Iraq's problems with its neighbors come to an end and the words fear and anxiety are erased from the political vocabulary of regional countries.

Furthermore, the problems between Iran and Iraq are of importance. The resumption of the exchange of PoW's and pilgrimage to holy places in Iraq and Iraq and the laying of foundations for healthy relations through the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 could be very effective factors in bringing Tehran and Baghdad closer together.

All this could come about when Iraq sets aside its contradictory policies and follows stable and declared principles. Baghdad is asked to prove its good will because in the past Iraq befriended Iran and Kuwait, then invaded them, and now seeks their friendship. Setting aside that policy, particularly since its regrettable consequences for the people of Iraq were extremely costly and difficult, would not only be in the interests of the region but also beneficial to the government and people of Iraq.

For that reason the visit by our country's deputy foreign minister to Baghdad, if successful, could pave the way for further meetings, bring all its positive results to all the nations in the region, and be regarded as an important step toward creating good will between Islamic countries.

Official's Visit Viewed

NC1810195393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrived in the Iraqi capital yesterday, Sunday [17 October], at the head of a high-level political delegation.

This visit comes in the wake of the talks held by the two countries' foreign ministers during the UN General Assembly's session and is in response to an official invitation he received from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's undersecretary.

This is the first official visit by an Iranian politician to Baghdad at this level since the war in the Persian Gulf region ended. Before leaving for Baghdad, Zarif said that the main objective of this visit is to study ways to implement the remaining clauses of Security Council Resolution 598 and to follow up on issues related to the Iranians POWs in Iraq. The Iranian official added that solving these problems is important for creating relations of good neighborliness and for enhancing stability and security in the region. [passage omitted]

The visit by the Iranian deputy foreign minister to Iraq can be said to be the start of a new stage in the talks between the two neighboring countries studying the pending issues and problems, including the issue of the remaining POWs. A large number of POWs have so far been exchanged, but Baghdad continues to refuse to release 5,000 Iranian POWs. The International Committee of the Red Cross has the names of these POWs and official documents that prove that they are in Iraq. This is Iraq's stand despite the Islamic Republic's unilateral release of a large number of Iraqi POWs in the past to show its good intentions. Observers believe that this problem can be easily solved if Iraq takes a positive and constructive stand and thereby puts an end to this human suffering. [passage omitted]

Solving the pending problems will naturally create a positive atmosphere in bilateral relations. It should be noted here that the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent several messages and official documents to the United Nations on Iraq's violations of the cease-fire in the border areas. It is clear that putting an end to tension in the border areas would have positive effects on the process of improving bilateral relations.

It must be said in regard to the Iranian official's visit to Iraq that the Islamic Republic of Iran is deeply worried about the situation of the Muslim Iraqi people as a result of the international sanctions imposed on that country. Iran is uneasy about the pressures being put on the sons of that

country in northern and southern Iraq, especially as the tense situation in southern Iraq in the past few months has made more than 5,000 people seek refuge in Iran.

Still, it can be said that, despite some problems in Iraqi-Iranian relations, overcoming such problems is possible if the two parties show good intentions by considering the pending issues at higher official levels in order to solve them in a satisfactory and fair manner. It should be stressed that constructive cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq is a fundamental factor in maintaining security and stability in the region.

Commentary: 'No One Expects Any Good' From U.S.

NC1810090593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has announced that neither the United States nor the United Nations can solve the world's problems. He propounded this stance within the framework of a list of U.S. foreign policy failures and successes during his Presidency.

Clinton is shrugging off his responsibility for the world's ills to justify his defeat, which he has been unable to conceal or downplay. The U.S. President has clearly unveiled the errors of U.S. foreign policy on Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other areas in which the United States does not have its so-called direct interests.

He admitted that the United Nations perpetrated a blatant blunder by declaring an arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina after giving it official recognition. Although Clinton stresses that the United States and the United Nations cannot solve all the world's problems, he is trying to mask his own inability and failure and to mitigate it by projecting the international problems as massive. But it would be worthwhile for Washington to know that from the outset people did not expect the United States to solve their problems. They only wanted the United States not to generate more problems for them, to say the least.

Today, the world is in the throes of a new world order in which the United States seeks to impose its sway belligerently. There are very few today who don't know that most of the world's problems, especially those of the Islamic world, stem from the United States and Washington's imperialist and hegemonistic policy. Look at U.S. efforts to dominate the Persian Gulf countries and to transform the region into an arsenal for various kinds of sophisticated weapons of mass destruction; Washington's support for the Zionist regime; the imposition of a compromise, the result of which is nothing but Israeli domination over the Middle East and a civil war among the Palestinians; programs to continue pillaging subterranean and national resources, including oil, from the regional countries; and White House support for the dictatorial regimes in the region to suppress Islamism and the popular wish for political freedom and an Islamic government. All these indicate that people, in and outside the region, consider the United States as the source of their problems.

The least they expect is that the United States should not generate problems for them. Clinton should know that no one expects any good from the United States.

Daily Criticizes U.S. 'Intervention' in Haiti

LD1710124593 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Oct. 17, IRNA—The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial Sunday criticized the recent U.S. intervention in Haiti.

Commenting on recent developments in that country, the paper noted: "Since the United Nations is an assembly of all the countries of the world, its decisions should be made in accordance with a set of rules acceptable to all."

Therefore, the article noted, when a single country volunteers to enforce the decisions of the United Nations and pressures the UN to grant it authorization for such an interference, the basic principles that have been accepted by all other nations are violated.

"It is an insult to the views of the other members of the United Nations when one country decides to interpret the UN regulations in a way that suits its own interests. This can only lead to replacement of rule of logic and reason by the law of the jungle in which the most powerful determine the fate of all the other members of a community.

"One could ask the question whether Haiti is the only country in the world where a military dictatorship is in power. Why doesn't the U.S. do anything to restore democracy in those Middle Eastern countries where dictatorial regimes which are allies of the U.S. are in power?" the paper concluded.

Velayati on UN General Assembly Session

LD1410224193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified moderator; from the weekly "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] The representatives of the UN member countries focused their attention on a number of different issues during the 48th UN General Assembly. Among those issues was the issue of human rights and how it is implemented in different countries. The UN General Assembly's discussion of the issue of human rights is essential, because the issue of human rights has always been a point of dispute between Western and independent countries. [passage omitted]

Dr. Velayati: One of the issues debated in the United Nations concerned human rights. What is Iran's viewpoint on this and what are the principal disagreements over human rights?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the valued viewers. The dispute over the human rights issue is a serious one, that is, the Westerners, especially some typical [shakhes] Western states seek to impose their own beliefs and Western values on the world in charming and seductive moulds. The mooting of the human rights issue is not, in itself, something to be opposed by free-thinking human beings of the world.

As I mentioned in my speech at the UN General Assembly, no creed in the world—this is our heartfelt belief—and across history has considered the rights of human beings as much as the holy creed of Islam. But the imposition of values or anti-values on other communities in the name of human rights is something that the Islamic states, a great number of the third world states, and some of the permanent Security Council members—such as China—oppose. No one—even the Westerners themselves—would deny that at present there is a moral decline in Western communities and that this is on the increase. They always recall that, and they are trying to find a solution to it—ostensibly. Of course, it may be that the main authorities [mehvarha] in those communities are not unaware of the radical reasons for such problems and moral decline. What they recommend to other communities—concerning the essential issues of human rights—in fact will take other communities to where Western states have been brought to, for moral considerations. They believe those things to be right that any human being wishes to do. That is, they consider whatever is done by any human being to be right. They say let human beings be free to do what they please.

[Moderator] Unbound freedom.

[Velayati] And there is nothing beyond the material world to rule over human beings and to determine the do's and don't's for them. In practice this means the negation of the spiritual and divine aspects of humanity. This lies at the root of the argument. Therefore Islamic countries, almost unanimously, are standing against this, but need an axis around which they can gather and from where they can stand against the flood of Western ethical decline.

Fortunately in the past two or three years the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to be this axis on the international scene, particularly the Islamic international scene. We showed this in the conferences of Karachi, Islamabad, Cairo, Tehran, Bangkok, and more recently in Vienna, and we will continue this in the United Nations. Taking into consideration that decisionmaking in the UN General Assembly is on the number of votes plus one, it is possible that we will have to face some imposed resolutions. But where ratification of international regulations and laws concerning human rights has needed consultations, as in the Vienna conference, they have not been able to impose their views on other countries of the world. In his speech, the American President said that we [Americans] do not accept the fact that some countries are trying to make human rights and the values of human rights be based on the particular values of each society, because human rights are a global issue.

In my speech I said that in reality some Western countries intend to impose their own social ethical decline—to which they confess themselves—within an attractive human rights form on other societies. We will definitely not accept this. But as far as the rights of the pious man is concerned, the Islamic Republic of Iran is definitely committed. We think we are responsible for respecting human rights within the context of Islamic law and regulations.

[Moderator] Mr. Velayati, during the UN General Assembly you had a number of meetings with the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. What were the main topics of the discussions, and what are the prospects of future relations with these countries?

[Velayati] Different issues were discussed with the foreign ministers of the countries mentioned. With the UAE foreign minister: taking into account the good-neighborly relations between the two countries and a long record of friendly relations, it is natural that if problems are created, the two sides should emphasize that the problem should be solved bilaterally. Therefore, despite propaganda by some countries and some circles during the past several weeks and months, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UAE have shown that they are not prepared to allow others to create chaos—under a benevolent pretext—in this sensitive region. Both countries believe in this policy and in the past several months there have been some good efforts during international meetings and bilateral discussions held in both countries, to solve some problems which have happened. And I should say that some of these problems have been lessened or solved, and the talks will continue. The decision has been made for the UAE foreign minister, or the minister of state for foreign affairs, to travel to Tehran. Our invitation continues to stand. The visit was not made on the previous date. The two sides are now waiting for an agreement on the new date for the visit to Tehran. Of course, we agreed with the UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah to continue the talks. This could be on the level of experts and a prelude for the foreign minister's summit between the two countries in the future in Tehran.

[Moderator] And with the British foreign minister, Mr. Douglas Hurd?

[Velayati] In comparison with other foreign ministers, I probably had the longest discussions with Mr. Hurd. Various identified issues between the Iran and Britain were discussed. Of course, we could say that the two sides at least agreed on the continuation of the talks. The British

Foreign Ministry director general [Assistant Undersecretary for the Middle East Sir Michael Burton] came to Tehran before the UN General Assembly to prepare the grounds for discussions between the two foreign ministers in New York. Mr. Douglas Hurd and ourselves agreed to continue our talks in the future at the level of senior experts of the two countries. [passage omitted]

With regard to Iraq, some problems remain in the two countries' relations that must be resolved. Fortunately the greater part of the articles of Resolution 598 have been carried out. The greater part of the issue of the PoWs has been settled. A number of PoWs still exist on both sides who definitely must be released. One of the principle points that is being dealt with by both countries in their talks is the issue of the release of the PoWs and finding out the fate of the MiAs.

Next Sunday, our Foreign Ministry deputy for international affairs will be visiting Baghdad and will begin expert talks with his Iraqi counterpart. Within a short period from his visit the Iraqi deputy foreign minister will be visiting Tehran. The talks between the two deputy foreign ministers will pave the way for my trip to Baghdad. We hope to overcome the remaining problems in our relations so that the two states of Iran and Iraq will be able to live together in this critical region on a basis of good-neighborliness after eliminating existing problems.

[Moderator] Regarding the Gaza-Jericho compromise and the issues that were raised in this connection on the periphery of the General Assembly—especially Iran's stance—I would be most grateful if you could briefly comment on them.

[Velayati] Our stance is specific and clear. We oppose that compromising plan. We believe that to be a conspiracy against Islam and Palestine. We have stressed that in talks with the foreign ministers of other countries as well as in the speech in the General Assembly. The reasons for it are clear. Look: In the last few years the Israelis were willing to let Gaza go. They proposed to Egypt—they had offered previously to relinquish Gaza to Egypt, but Egypt didn't want to know. Therefore the offer of some of the Israeli regime's authority to the PLO is not a kindness bestowed by the Israeli regime to that organization. It has given a part of its authority, which will do nothing and has no other virtue than to create division, disputes, and problems among the Palestinians themselves.

Israel will not leave Gaza through the implementation of that plan, but will hold on to the critical areas of Gaza and make use of the PLO as its own police to suppress the Palestinian freedom-seekers and strugglers. That is the essence of the plan. Creating division in the Arab front and many other disadvantages are among the adverse side effects of that plan. Of course, after the passage of several weeks, when the initial fever resulting from the voluminous and extensive propaganda of the Westerners is over, gradually a larger number of the countries and the peoples of the world will realize that what has taken place—as far as the positive points of the plan are concerned—have been much ado about nothing. Gradually the resistance of various Arab and Palestinian fronts toward the plan will come to the fore. Certainly such an important and complex issue—which is the longest and most crucial complex issue of the contemporary world—cannot be resolved with clamor and propaganda. What will be the fate of the 3 million Palestinian refugees? What will be the fate of the the rest of the occupied territories? What will be the fate of Bayt al-Muqaddas [Jerusalem]? What will be the fate of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon?

[Moderator] What are your views on the structure of the United Nations, the Security Council, and the General Assembly, and basically what are the viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran on that?

[Velayati] Following the collapse of communism, the United States' raising of the issue of the new world order and a single or multi-polar world, as well as German unity, the strengthening of Japan's position, in particular, and the entire Far Eastern and Southeastern Asian states in general, and other world developments, murmurs have been circulating in the world, some of which are getting closer to materialization. One of them is that the number of the permanent members of the Security Council should increase. That is a matter of consideration for countries such as Germany and Japan more than others, or at least they themselves have raised the issue that way. They say: What is the criteria for some countries being permanent members of the Security Council and having the right of veto? If it is by population, then the population of each of those two countries—this is their own words—is greater than that of some of the permanent members of the Security Council. If the criteria is the level of participation in terms of providing budget and other issues, then the role of Japan in particular, and also Germany have been greater in providing financial resources for the United Nations. Therefore they would like to become permanent members of the Security Council.

In fact, since those issues have been raised, the Security Council's five permanent-member obstacle, if we do not say it has collapsed, at least we can say it has been shaken. Some other countries that used to have claims in that regard have now raised their voices. India for example says: We are the most populated democracy in the world, a country with a long history and a great deal of capabilities, and why should we not be a permanent member?

The Latin Americans say: All of Latin America should have the right to have a representative at the Security Council, and all of them support Brazil's membership as a permanent representative.

Africans, in total more than 50 states, say that Africa should have a voice at the Security Council and give Nigeria as an example.

Therefore the plan to increase the number of the permanent representatives is a serious issue which is being

discussed. Due to that pressure, some experienced countries who are permanent members seek to change the possible rights, or better said, authority of those countries, if they are forced to accept some of those countries as permanent members. For example, the new members could become permanent members but not enjoy the right of veto. That was one issue of discussion on the change in the UN structure.

Another issue raised by a number of Western countries is the setting up of a high UN commission on human rights. One person would be at the head of the commission, for example holding the post of deputy UN secretary general, who can dispatch white-helmet forces to various parts of the world where human rights are reportedly violated to investigate the matter and possibly implement the decisions of the Security Council concerning the issue of human rights.

Another issue raised by the third world countries—let us say third world with its former interpretation, we call them countries of the south—is that the UN General Assembly should have greater authority, so that not only a few countries control the authority of the whole world, the people of the world, and more than 180 UN member countries. In fact such instruments [the Security Council] legitimize the hegemony of the hegemonist states. That issue has also been raised. In any case, we expect some developments in the UN structure in the future.

[Moderator] Dr. Velayati, once again I thank you for your presence in the program.

[Velayati] I also thank you.

Turkish Interior Minister Arrives for Talks

NC1710083593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Turkish Interior Minister Gazioglu arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a delegation for talks on expanding joint cooperation. He was welcomed at the airport by Interior Minister Besharati.

Expressing satisfaction on his first visit to Tehran, Gazioglu said that the objective behind this visit is to study the current process of cooperation and ways to expand it in the various dimensions.

In an interview with an IRNA correspondent, the Turkish interior minister referred to the friendly relations between Tehran and Ankara and stressed the need for a common mechanism for cooperation on border security and the fight against terrorism.

Gazioglu said that the Iranian and Turkish people support cooperation between the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of Turkey, adding that this is a point that the presidents of both countries also emphasize.

The Turkish interior minister is carrying messages from President Demirel and Prime Minister Ciller for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and First Vice President Habibi.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1710122593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Turkish Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu, who is carrying a written message from his country's President Suleyman Demirel.

In this meeting, the Turkish interior minister said that one of the principles of Turkish foreign policy is to continue friendship and greater cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that in the context of this principled and definite policy cooperation between the Interior Ministries of Iran and Turkey has been very good and sincere.

He also called for an exchange of delegations between the two countries for the purpose of cooperation toward the adoption of common policies against groups opposing the security and peace of the two countries.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the minister for the message from Demirel and said that he approves the two countries' cooperation in order to safeguard peace and security in the borders, and Iran has not and will not allow disturbances and insecurity in its common borders with Turkey.

Criticizing the irresponsible views from some Turkish circles and media against Iran, the president said that it is expected that Turkish officials who are aware of realities will clearly deny these baseless views and enlighten the people regarding the designs of the malicious, who are against the expansion of cooperation between the neighborly countries.

Finally, Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the expansion of bilateral relations in the fields of economy, technology, transport, and regional cooperation.

Meets With Majles Speaker

LD1710183293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Turkish Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu met and conferred with the Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri. During the meeting, Mr. Gazioglu, referring to the long-standing relations between the two countries of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed the hope for those relations to continue through the endeavors that they have begun for the expansion of bilateral ties.

He also pointed out: Turkey will never allow any activity by elements who intend to destroy the two countries' good relations.

The Majles speaker said such visits will help eliminate ambiguities that some encourage for their own use, referred to issues such as a common effort front in the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], common cultural, religious, political, and economic aspects of Iran and Turkey, and regarded the elimination of tension and the further expansion of ties between the two countries as requirements for such conditions [sentence as heard].

Terming the current economic exchanges to be insufficient, Mr. Nateq Nuri considered the formation of a common economic committee by the two countries to be effective in strengthening such exchanges. Recalling the Central Asian states joining the ECO, he assessed the activation of the ECO at the level of the formation of a regional common market to be useful for all its members.

He also termed the security cooperation between Turkey and Iran to be desirable. This has reached its highest point through the formation of a joint security committee. He expressed the hope that the two countries bring back peace to the region by resolving the Karabakh crisis.

In his remarks, the Majles speaker, referring to the formation of a Iran-Turkey parliamentary friendship group, stressed the need for the strengthening the ties between the two parliaments.

Meets With Besharati

LD1710201193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The expansion of bilateral ties, maintaining the security of the Iran-Turkey borders, and the campaign against terrorism and drug smugglers were discussed today in the first round of talks between Turkish Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu, and Interior Minister 'Ali Besharati. During the meeting, the Turkish interior minister, stressing the expansion of cordial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], announced his country's readiness to cooperate with the IRI in various fields.

Mr. Besharati, emphasizing the need for the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Turkey in various fields, called for the continued cooperation of the two countries on the basis of mutual ties, noninterference in each others affairs, and good-neighborliness.

Besharati on Talks

LD1810115793 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—The visiting Turkish Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu Sunday [17 October] underlined the need for further expansion of cordial ties betwen Iran and Turkey.

Gazioglu, who arrived here Sunday morning, made the remark in the first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

The Turkish official stressed that further consolidation of Tehran-Ankara ties would enrage enemies of the two countries.

Turning to the issue of security at Turkey's border with Iran, he hoped for closer bilateral cooperation to fight terrorism and drug trafficking on the basis of previous agreements.

Besharati pointed to the conspiracies masterminded by foreign powers to change the political geography of the region and stressed that Iran neither sought crisis nor supported opposition groups in any country.

He reiterated that Turkey's Kurdestan Labour Party (PKK) had no bases in Iran, adding that both the Iranian Government and nation did not support the party.

Underlining the importance of mutual talks and formation of joint commissions, Besharati said Tehran-Ankara ties are based on reciprocal respect, non-interference in domestic affairs of each other and good-neighboring relations.

He also voiced Iran's readiness to help eliminate obstacles blocking further expansion of mutual ties.

In another meeting with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Gazioglu said his country would not allow those who attempt to disturb Tehran-Ankara ties to become active.

Calling for consolidation of bilateral ties, the speaker said that current trade volume between the two countries is not sufficient although formation of the joint economic commission is a positive step.

Nateq-Nuri said that formation of a regional common market would be effective in further activating Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), especially with regard to the recent membership of Afghanistan and Muslim republics in Central Asia.

He said that security cooperation between the two countries further broadened with the formation of the joint security committee and expressed hope that both the countries could help to restore peace to Karabakh.

Inviting the speaker of the Turkish parliament to visit Iran, Nateq-Nuri underlined the need for strengthening parliamentary ties between the two countries.

Gazioglu also met with chairman and members of Majlis commission for councils and internal affairs Sunday. During the meeting, chairman of the commission Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahedi Savoji said the two countries could have closer cooperation on the basis of mutual interests.

Anti-Drug Campaign To Be Stepped Up

LD1810212293 Tehran IRNA in English 1916 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, (IRNA)—Iran and Turkey Monday signed a protocol for further developing their relations and for stepping up their joint campaign against drug trafficking and hostile acts along their common borders.

The protocol also anticipates further broadening of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The protocol was signed by the Turkish Minister of the Interior Mehmet Gazioglu and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

The Iranian minister said in an interview following the inking of the protocol that Turkey's enemies were equally regarded as being Iran's enemies and expressed hope that the Turkish Government would not allow the enemies of Iran to engage in hostile acts against the Islamic Republic while they are on the Turkish soil.

The Turkish minister, commenting on the subject, said that he and the Iranian interior minister had delved into the topic of mutual security issues with a view to making it impossible for their mutual enemies to exploit either soil for launching hostile activities against the other.

Gazioglu said Iran and Turkey are two big powers of the region, and commented that the good relations between the two states is to the benefit of the entirety of the region.

Representatives from the two countries are to discuss their mutual security topics in their next such meeting December 14.

In related news, the visiting Turkish minister of the interior told Iran's Vice President Hasan Habibi here Monday that his government wishes to upgrade relations with Iran to its highest conceivable level.

He said the Turks would not want to have any difference with Iran over any topic, and would not also allow their soil to be used against Iran in whatsoever manner.

The vice president responded by making a brief reference to historical and cultural relations between Iran and Turkey saying the good relations between the two countries is resented solely by certain groups that stand to suffer as a result of the friendly relations between the two countries.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran will not tolerate anything that might adversely affect her relations with Turkey, nor any plot against her Muslim neighbors.

Commentary Views Visit

LD1710204793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Turkish interior minister, Mr. [Mehmet] Gazioglu, arrived in Tehran this morning along with his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly regional cooperation between Iran and Turkey, which has been carried out basically on common religious and cultural aspects in the two countries' interests, has created a favorable condition for the restoration of security along the two countries' borders. The national security considerations can be put forth as an important issue for the deepening of the two countries' ties, making it crystal clear that pursuing the common interests within the framework of the treaties and agreements to boost the cooperation can only be done when Iran and Turkey succeed in their efforts for maintaining national security [sentence as heard]. In this way the national security considerations, as far as the common issues such as the control over the borders are concerned, can play an important role in the favorable trend of the cooperations.

Meanwhile, the commercial and economic cooperation between Iran and Turkey within the framework of the joint cooperation committees of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] can have a considerable role in the two countries' ties. Iran and Turkey, as the founders of the ECO, possess considerable capacities for the economic and commercial exchanges, which can be regarded as the potential factors for the promotion of the economic relations between the two countries. This matter can be easily materialized within the coordinated efforts of the ECO.

Anyway, it is expected that the visit of the Turkish and Iranian ministers, who according to incoming reports are carried out based on the agreements reached between the two countries' former interior ministers, are hoped to be able to follow up the goals which have already been set; and also create a deeper relation between the two countries.

Sudanese Ambassador: President To Visit

LD1810171493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] At a meeting today with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, Mr. Qutbi al-Mahdi, the new Sudanese ambassador in Tehran, expressed the hope that with the visit by his country's president to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which will take place in the near future, a new chapter will begin in relations between the two countries.

Referring to the common stances of the two countries, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said the adherence of the Sudanese authorities to Islam and their enjoyment of popular support was their main strength. He stressed the importance of the continuation of those factors.

He also referred to the instructions of his holiness Imam Khomeyni, God's mercy be upon him, about standing up to conspiracies. He said: We would never forsake our Islamic values and legitimate stances.

He finally expressed the hope that, by using the Islamic Republic of Iran as a model, all Muslim countries would resist the superpowers and not yield to their greed.

Indian Official on PRC, Indian Alliance Proposal

LD1810172693 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—Visiting Chairman of India's Press Association Nhal Singh said at the Political Studies Center of Iran's Foreign Ministry here Monday that Washington might be clandestinely improving its nuclear arsenal while apparently pioneering the global non-prolifertion campaign.

He said the United States is now the only military power that seeks to superintend the military programs of other world countries solely to ensure the long-term interests of the United States. Nhal Singh said the U.S. is evidently keeping its hold on international forums, including the United Nations and the Security Council, to pull strings when necessary.

Referring to a proposition by Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for the alliance of Iran, India and China he said that if the idea materialized Iran would be the central pivot of that alliance.

'Few Interested' in Kuwaiti's UN Speech

NC1410140493 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY EDITION) in English 7 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial signed "Afraz": "For the Kuwaiti Nation"]

[Text] Because the stance of most Arab regimes is no longer on the international political agenda, some Arab leaders have become increasingly dull with their speech leaning on visible clumsiness. The latest such display of poor statesmanship capped by irresponsible interference in the affairs of another state came last week. Again it was a member of the once humiliated Al Sabah clan telling the Islamic Republic of Iran what to do and not to do with regard to the islands' issue raised by the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

In his address to the U.N. General Assembly the Kuwaiti foreign minister announced his mini-state's "support for the UAE's sovereignty" over the Iranian islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. On his country's ties with Islamic Iran he reiterated that Shaykh Jabir's regime seeks to improve relations on the basis of good-neighborliness, non-interference.... [ellipsis as published] As usual, the representative of a state whose leadership was dismantled in six hours in August 1990, kept on talking at the annual U.N. gathering but there were few interested listeners.

For one thing, no important leader or politician can today afford to take the Kuwaiti stance on any international issue seriously. The few lobbyists or out-of-luck officials who nod their heads in consent when the Kuwaiti's speak only have one objective—an economic agreement or lucrative project with the royal family that depends on the U.S. security umbrella for survival.

We would ask Al Sabah's Kuwait to think again. Experience is the best teacher and it would be unfortunate if the Kuwaiti nation—smaller than one of our small provinces—does not demand its rulers redress their apparent lack of direction.

It is for the Muslim people of Kuwait to ask a few simple questions: When will their leaders distinguish between friend and foe? What harm has Iran done to their interests to tolerate the loud-mouthedness of shaykhs and princes who pumped billions of Kuwaiti money into the war coffers of Saddam Husayn to reverse Iran's Islamic Revolution? Does Kuwait not have enough big security, social, political and border problems at home and with Iraq that it is devoting time, money and energy to echo the stance of alien powers on a regional issue which has nothing to do with the desert emirate? Does Kuwait not require Iran's true friendship to achieve the Arab state's much-publicized desire for peace and security?

Kuwait was, is and will remain vulnerable to defeat, humiliation and subservience if the Al Sabah's continue to defy logic and intentionally disregard the stark realities of the Persian Gulf region. With or without its dwindling economic and political influence and a tiny fraction of Iran's population it cannot expect to pack up the country and recreate itself on American territory. The inviting of U.S. troops and security arrangements with the greedy West did not indeed save it from Iraq's lawlessness. Kuwait must stand on its own feet with honor and integrity and stop being an instrument of manipulation.

To achieve the higher goals of good neighborly relations, strengthen regional cooperation in diverse fields, build and consolidate solidarity among regional nations and further world peace and understanding, governments and peoples first need strong and honest leaders.

In Kuwait, so it seems, the top brass has got into the habit of repeating mistakes only because the security umbrella still prevails. But the recent past has proved the worth of such arrangements and alliances in various parts of the globe. The Kuwaiti leadership, not surprisingly, is inclined to talk first and think afterwards and in the process has confused yesterday from today and tomorrow.

Red Crescent Promises Relief Aid to Georgia

LD1510153693 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, Oct. 15, IRNA—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze in a meeting with Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Tbilisi Fereydun Haq last night underlined the importance of the Islamic Republic's role in the region.

Shevardnadze also thanked Iran for its decision to send relief aid for the strife-torn people of Georgia, saying such assistances would greatly help in easing the problems facing his country.

The Iranian diplomat expressed regret over the death of a large number of Georgian people in the conflicts plaguing the Transcaucasus republic and said Iran's Red Crescent Society would soon despatch relief supplies to Georgia.

On Wednesday, Shevardnadze, in a message to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, appealed for relief aid for Georgians uprooted from their homes by the recent clashes.

According to reports, a large number of refugees in the Georgian highlands have died because of want of food, medicine, fuel and warm clothing.

The tussle for power between Shevardnadze and ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, has made thousands of people homeless, while thousands more Georgians have been displaced because of the Abkhazian struggle in the northwest for a separate homeland.

IRNA May Sue UK Paper Over Spying Allegation

LD1410192693 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] London, Oct. 14, IRNA—The Islamic Republic News Agency Thursday was examining the possibility of suing the London-based INDEPENDENT newspaper for making libellous remarks about the operation of its bureaus abroad. IRNA's London office was seeking legal advice appertaining to claims made by the daily on Wednesday that IRNA bureaus were acting as spying missions along with the cultural attaches at Iranian embassies.

Like its previous allegations against Iranian institutions, THE INDEPENDENT offered no pretext of any evidence for its story, which followed similar unsubstantiated reports and can only reflect upon the paper's self-image with supposedly high journalistic standards.

THE INDEPENDENT, as Britain's newest national title, has been suffering more than its rivals from declining sales and its headline news Tuesday resorted to use unidentified sources to accuse Iranians for Monday's shooting of Norwegian publisher, William Nygaard.

In its inside pages, it further invoked false impressions about the Iranian Government by blending a mixture of old propaganda with unfounded allegations to suggest that the country's foreign policy of pragmatism and moderation had some hidden agenda.

When THE INDEPENDENT was launched in 1986, it set its platform on refusing to join the notorious political lobby system in the UK on the grounds that it did not want to float stories based upon sources, which were unattributable. Its initial success was to gain its own niche in the market, with daily sales reaching over 400,000 comparable to its main rivals, THE TIMES and GUARDIAN. But with emerging management upheavals and financial problems, sales have since fallen by more than 10 percent.

In its latest allegations Wednesday, THE INDEPENDENT 'jumped upon the bandwagon' with other dailies to use a Foreign Office briefing to suggest Britain was "furious" about reports of talks last week between Iranian and German security chiefs. But it was the only paper to orchestrate a claim that since 'Ali Larijani became minister for Islamic guidance, both embassy cultural attaches and IRNA bureaus had "gained importance as centers for intelligence gathering on dissidents and misinformation."

It also went as far as smearing KEYHAN newspaper and KEYHAN HAVA'I weekly as being the "unofficial media arm" of the Ministry of Information and Security." The daily made no attempt to identify any source to its libellous remarks other than name that the writers of the defamations were diplomatic editor, Annika Savill, and Safa Ha'eri, who is renowned for making frequent, unfounded allegations against Iran.

'Crisis' in U.S.-FRG Ties Over Iran Reported

NC1610081093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The United States has expressed concern over talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Germany and the two countries' cooperation. AFP reports that State Department Spokesman Michael McCurry, who was commenting yesterday on our intelligence minister's visit to Germany and his talks with high-ranking German officials, added that Washington has not yet been able to get clear information from Bonn concerning this visit.

Last week the German Government strongly refuted the criticism that followed this visit, pointing out that these talks had an exclusively humanitarian purpose.

Meanwhile, in a commentary on the beginning of a crisis between the United States and Germany and the fact that this crisis was publicized with Bonn's efforts to strengthen its ties to the Islamic Republic of Iran, AP writes: Very rarely does the United States openly state its differences with a close ally such as Germany. In another part of the commentary, AP writes: The United States has encouraged its allies to minimize their economic-financial relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL Thursday quoted German diplomats as saying that the policy of isolating Iran is wrong.

Law Enforcement Official on INTERPOL Meeting

LD1210161793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Thanks to the relentless efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the changeover of the role of the former Yugoslavia to Serbia at the annual session of the International Police, INTERPOL, was prevented.

[Correspondent] General Seyfollahi, the commander of the Law Enforcement Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on his return from the annual INTERPOL session in Uruguay, in South America, said: The proposal and attempts by certain European countries to replace the former Yugoslavia with Serbia was not approved.

Describing the activities of the Iranian delegation at the 62nd session of the INTERPOL, Gen Seyfollahi said the outcome of the session was fruitful. He added: Following Iran's success in the struggle against narcotics, and on the approval of the INTERPOL secretary general, a regional police assembly comprising the highest-ranking police officers from Middle Eastern, Central Asian, and some European countries will be held in Tehran toward the end of Farvardin next year [April 1994].

He said our country's success in halting the planting and production of narcotics had been noted at the INTERPOL session. He added: The law enforcement force of our country will soon be equipped with the advanced X400 computer system, with which it could exchange data on narcotics with the INTERPOL center in the shortest possible time. [passage omitted]

Offical Meets Owen, Stoltenberg in Geneva

LD1610182293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The Iranian representative at the UN headquarters in Geneva [Cyrus Naseri] has termed the organization's Security Council and the European Community as instruments of the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a meeting yesterday with UN and EC mediators in the affairs of former Yugoslavia, David Owen and Stoltenberg, Naseri said: The inattention and unjust approach of international organizations has allowed the Serbs to achieve their aggressive goals through aggression and genocide.

Mr. Cyrus Naseri also said according to the existing peace plan, the territories occupied by the Serbs will be given to them, and this contradicts the agreements calling for the evacuation of all occupied territories by the Serbs.

In this meeting, the special EC mediator David Owen said the cause for the defeat of the plan to maintain Bosnian unity was the lack of international support and claimed that he had the role of directing the peace negotiations.

Closer Cooperation With South Korea Favored

LD0910202093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 9 OCT 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, having attended the 48th session of the UN General Assembly last Tuesday, left New York for the South Korean capital of Seoul.

Later, he arrived in that country on a 3-day official visit. Being the first visit of any Iranian foreign minister to South Korea since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, Dr. Velayati's current trip has been construed as significant by analysts of political and economic issues.

Political observers view it as the sign of importance which the two countries' officials attach to the promotion of bilateral relations. Reports on Dr. Velayati's visit to South Korea indicate that, during his 3-day stay in Seoul, he has held fruitful talks in various spheres of political and economic cooperation during separate meetings with that country's officials. [passage omitted]

As stressed by the two country's government officials in their statements, Dr. Velayati's South Korean visit is taken to be a sign of both state's interest to expand cooperation in all matters of mutual interest. Considering the avenues existing within the framework of economic cooperation which have already ranked South Korea as it was a main trade partner, it is expected that Seoul will play a more significant role in the near future in forging bilateral cooperation.

In particular, this cooperation is expected to be prominent in the technical and developmental sector, bringing about participation in Iran's second economic development plan and investing in its free trade zones.

Iran, UNIDO Sign Agreement on Tehran Conference

LD1610113593 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Iran and the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a letter of understanding in Vienna Friday on the forthcoming consultative conference on downstream petrochemical industry.

The conference is to be held here on November 7-11 with the participation of over 120 experts from more than 35 countries and independent international organizations.

Great importance is being attached to the conference since through such an international gathering new strategies would be adopted for production and supply of products of this industry in Third World counties.

The letter was signed by Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the Vienna U.N. bureau Mojtaba Arastu and UNIDO Director General Muricio de Mariay Compoz.

Arasto underlined the importance of the conference as an example of Iran-UNIDO cooperation and called for further UNIDO cooperation with members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

He expressed hope that such cooperation would have positive impacts on the trend of industrial and economic growth in those countries.

Meanwhile, Compoz said that UNIDO was interested in the expansion of its regional activities especially in the framework of ECO.

He announced readiness to visit Iran to finalize an agreement on practical bilateral cooperation. He is due to pay a visit to Iran in the coming year.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khamene'i Hold Talks 17 Oct

NC1810071193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, last night and held talks with him before his official visit to the Central Asian countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Opens Pipeline Plant

LD1410115593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Excerpts] In the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a project on the production of pipelines employing the spiral method was inaugurated today at the Sadid Industrial Conglamorate. This is the biggest pipeline production line in the world employing this method.

[Unidentified correspondent] The said production line has a definitive output capacity of 150,000 tonnes a year. It manufactures standardized pipes, up to a diameter of two meters, for use in carrying water, oil, and gas. [passage omitted]

The outfit is to manufacture pipes needed for such major works as the project to bring water from Zarrineh-rud to Tabriz and from Zayandeh-rud to Yazd.

At the end of his visit to various parts of the Sadid Industrial Conglamorate, the president had an interview with the Central News Unit. He underlined the importance of manufacturing large pipes by employing the most modern technology. He said that a major and profound development has been achieved by the country's heavy industries through manufacturing spiral pipes. He added that the main problems for major projects to transfer water, gas, and oil have now been solved, including projects for transporting water to the cities of Yazd and Tabriz.

The president said that the amount of foreign exchange to be saved through the inauguration of the said project is very valuable. He said the importance and the added value of the said project will be appreciated when it is seen in light of the fact that in the future Iran will be a major center through which the gas pipelines of the region will have to transit. [passage omitted]

Report on Living Standards Presented to Cabinet

LD1710182093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Oct 093

[Text] During the Cabinet session this afternoon, the governor of the Central Bank, Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, presented a report on the results of a survey carried out by the Research and Statistical Office of the Central Bank on family budget in the year 1370 [21 March 1991 to 20 March 1992].

On the basis of this research, compared with current prices, family expenditures have increased by 32.3 percent; and after deducting inflation, the increase is 10.3 percent. In the said year, family expenditures on foodstuff decreased, compared to the figures for the previous year; whereas the share of the expenditure on items other than food increased. This shows an improvement in the standard of living, which has created greater comfort for families.

The percentage of people living in their own property increased from 67.9 percent in the year 1352 [21 March 1973 to 20 March 1974] to 71.5 percent in the year 1370.

Islamic Guidance Minister on National Identity

LD1610192993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Addressing the seminar on National Culture and Development today, 'Ali Larijani, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, stressed: The Third World has learned to take cultural growth seriously throughout the period of capital accumulation, transfer of technology, and industrialization.

He stressed: We wish to have a developed and a modern country with an Islamic identity where Islamic culture and human spiritual development is dominant.

The minister of culture and Islamic guidance discussed the history and the position of underdeveloped countries and said: Due to a number of historic and structural causes, the Third World countries face complex difficulties in the domain of development. They have failed in

economic development and have also been unable to present an acceptable model for human development.

He hoped that the generation interested in the qualitative movement of the Islamic Republic will, through a comprehensive effort, learn about the qualitative and quantitative aspects of domestic development, and will be an appropriate model for all Muslim generations who are pinning their hope on the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

The first seminar on National Culture and Development continues for three days in the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Kordestan Governor General Appointed

LD1410202093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today participated in a session of the Kordestan Province Administrative Council and introduced Mohammad Reza Rahimi as the province's new governor general.

During the session, the interior minister referred to the implementation of many development and social projects in Kordestan during the first five-year plan and said: Some new projects have also been envisaged for the province in the second five-year plan, which will be implemented faster as the new governor-general begins work. Mr. Besharati also said: The record of the people of Kordestan should not be confused with that of the anti-revolutionaries. The people of the province have realized the empty slogans of the enemies of the revolution pertaining to support for the Kurds.

Majles Approves Bills, Elects Secretary

LD1710123893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpts] In today's open session of the Majles and in the presence of the members of the Guardian Council, a bill allowing the sale of vehicles purchased from the provisions of the second article of the eighth note of the national budget regulations for the year 1372 [beginning March 1993], which had a double urgency priority, was further discussed and approved.

Also, a member's bill for the financial reform of the Majles was approved in the open session today. Our parliamentary correspondent reports on the details of today's session:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] In today's open session, a member's bill on Majles finances, which had been returned from the Guardian Council, was corrected to meet the views of the Guardian Council.

Also, in secret voting, Mr. Qorban 'Ali Dorri Najafabadi, the Majles deputy from Tehran, was elected as secretary to the Majles presidium.

In this meeting, discussions began on a bill allowing the determination of the amount of tariffs and trade interest for goods imported by the government, and following the expression of views by those approving and opposing, the continuation of the discussions was left for the next open session.

Guardians Council Approves By-Election Result

LD1410131093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] The validity of the by-election for the fourth term of the Majles at Razan constituency was approved by the Council of Guardians. The Council of Guardians announced: Following a review of the case of the second round of the by-election for the fourth term of the Majles for that constituency, six ballot boxes were declared void because they had been damaged. Then the validity of the Razan constituency by-election was approved by the majority of the Council of Guardian members. Consequently, Mohammad Mehdi Mofatteh was elected to the Majles as deputy for Razan constituency.

Press Managers Praise Lack of Censorship

LD1810211593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The first meeting between the minister of culture and Islamic guidance and managers in charge of the country's press was held at Vahdat Hall this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by more than 100 managers in charge of dailies, weeklies, and monthlies from all over the country, officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and officials in charge of the press. The minister of culture and Islamic guidance said that the main duty of the press is to wisely relate social issues and raise the level of the people's knowledge. He said: The opportunity for discussion should always exist, and freedom of thought should not be subject to anything.

Stressing the necessity to increase support for the press, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance said: Support for publications should continue for many years. At meetings between press managers and government officials, the time should not be spent discussing issues such as paper or other shortages.

During the meeting, a number of managers in charge of the press spoke of the role of the press as a communication bridge between the people and the authorities. They expressed gratitude for the lack of imposition of ideas and censorship on the press after the Islamic revolution, and discussed tax exemption for the press, support for publications, the provision of facilities, job security in

the press, the necessity for the public to support the press, and the need to form guilds.

Largest Military, Supply Ship Returns to Duty

LD1610140293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The state ship-building experts completed the essential repair work on the vessel Khark, and the vessel was launched in a ceremony in Bandar-e 'Abbas this morning.

[Unidentified correspondent] The repair work on the ship Khark, our country's largest military and supply ship, was completed in 50 days and 100,000 man hours at the Dolphin docks belonging to Sadra-Jorang ship-building, affiliated with the Ministry of Heavy Industries and located in the Persian Gulf ship-building complex in Bandar-e 'Abbas.

The logistics-military ship Khark joined the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] Navy in 1361 [Iranian year starting 21 March 1982]. It is 207 meters long, 26 meters wide, 44 meters high, and weighs 33,000 tonnes. The vessel plays an active role in the activities of the IRI Navy.

*Work on Bandar-e Anzali Bridge To Begin

93LA0240D Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Sep 93 p 15

[Text] The work on Bandar-e Anzali's transit bridge is beginning this year alongside this municipality's old bridge.

This was announced by Engineer Shoja', Majles deputy from Bandar-e Anzali, at a meeting of this municipality's administrative council.

He said: The studies and preliminary construction for this bridge have been completed by the Ministry of Roads and Transportation.

He added: To implement this project, preliminary credit in excess of 6 billion rials has been procured from national credits.

Bandar-e Anzali's transit bridge is 210 meters long and 10 meters high. It is more than a half-century old and was built in the year 1317 [21 March 1938-20 March 1939]. It plays an important role connecting west Gilan to Rasht and central Gilan.

In recent years, this bridge has almost been destroyed.

Pakistan

Benazir Bhutto Accorded 'Overwhelming' Victory

BK1910084093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Pakistan People's Party cochairperson, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, is the leader of the house in the National Assembly and next prime minister of Pakistan. Ms. Benazir Bhutto was given an overwhelming victory in the National Assembly today during a special session, when she bagged 49 votes more than her rival, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif group chief Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. She polled 121 votes as against 72 secured by Mr. Nawaz Sharif in the present strength of 205 of the National Assembly. Eight members belonging to Islamic Jamhoori Mahaz [Islamic Democratic Front], Pakistan Islamic Front, and the National People's Party abstained from voting. (?Other) three members were not present in the house. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Speech to National Assembly

BK1910084793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0609 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Address by Benazir Bhutto to the National Assembly in Islamabad—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker! This moment for Pakistan is the moment for thanksgiving to the almighty God. This moment is the moment for thanksgiving for the members of this House. For each member of this House, this moment is to revive the memory of those hopes and aspirations on the basis of which the people of all four provinces placed confidence in all of us. This moment is to keep in view the problems and difficulties of the 120 million people. This moment is to remember the sacrifices rendered in a long struggle for the restoration of democracy and stability in the country. This moment is the moment of an epoch-making change in the history of Pakistan. I am proud that at this moment you have placed faith in me as the representatives of the people. Only two times in the history of Pakistan has anyone been elected prime minister twice. [applause] For the first time this honor was achieved in 1977 by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. [applause]. Today, for the second time, you have given this honor to me.

Mr. Speaker, the country is presently faced with serious economic difficulties. The politics of the past has created many doubts in the minds of the people. The people look forward to a change. Now, the nation does not want only a change of faces. Now, the change in system is essential. Now, God willing, this change will certainly come. The people's government will be the government of reforms. The future of Pakistani nation is bright, and we are determined to make it brighter. We will begin to work hard from this very moment, so that the dreams of the countrymen are realized. [applause] The realization of these dreams can change our fate. I am confident that our fate will definitely change.

Mr. Speaker, at the present juncture Pakistan stands isolated at the international level. The world is witnessing great changes. However, instead of taking advantage of these changes, we have been hard hit by these changes. Somewhere, threats are being given to declare us as terrorists and somewhere our name is famous in connection with the drug trade. A controversy has also been created about our peaceful nuclear program.

The foremost priority of the government will be to retrieve Pakistan from this international isolation [preceding two words in English] so that in the shrinking world—in this global village [preceding two words in English]—instead of remaining isolated from all others, we provide fruits of international relations to our people.,

Mr. Speaker! Today, I am addressing this house as the leader of the house. However, I have already spent a long time in the opposition. I know the spirit of the democracy is that yesterday's opposition can become the government today, and today's government can become the opposition tomorrow. Keeping in mind this spirit of democracy, we have underscored the need, even before the elections, for respect and cooperation between the government and the opposition. We are committed to this stand even today. After assuming the governmental power, we will accord the same respect to the opposition that we expected for ourselves as the opposition. [applause]

This house came into existence after a prolonged struggle. I want to thank our armed forces and the caretaker government for their special role in ending the confrontation and conducting free and fair elections. The acting president, the caretaker prime minister and his cabinet members, the army chief and his colleagues deserve special thanks from us and the people for the fact that they conducted free and fair elections. Members and personnel of the Election Commission and officers and soldiers of the armed forces played their part with sincerity and worked hard in this regard. I thank them on behalf of the nation. [applause]

Mr. Speaker! We want to strengthen democracy. To ensure this, it is necessary that the people continue to respect the assembly members. Bribery and horse trading contributed to maligning the nation, politicians and democracy in the past. I would like to declare that we will not allow horse trading; we will strengthen the law so that people involved in bribery and horse trading do not succeed in avoiding the clutches of the law. [applause]. No one in future will be allowed to violate the popular mandate. Similarly, we pledge to establish an atmosphere of cooperation between the federation and the provinces. The confrontation between the federation and the provinces has impaired democracy in the past. Assemblies could not complete their terms. However, this time, after an atmosphere of cooperation between the provinces and the federation is established, this situation will not arise, God willing.

Mr. Speaker! I an confident that members of this august house will play their role in the government and the opposition in keeping with democratic and parliamentary traditions and, God willing, extraordinary situations will not arise. Assemblies will complete their term as usual, and their functioning will also be satisfactory as desired by the people. I would like to extend my salute especially to the people of the four provinces of Pakistan that they gave their verdict in the elections. Similarly, the enthusiasm shown by the slum dwellers, toilers, and people striving hard to earn a livelihood and those who are trying to deal with this inflation and the way they participated in the elections prove the fact that they are expecting the government and the assembly to take the country out of this economic crisis and rid them of this situation. I pray to God that give me the courage and determination to fulfill the people's aspirations. [applause]

This challenge, this trial the nation is facing is a challenge to all of us and a trial for all of us. The 21st century is upcoming. I invite the opposition and every member today to jointly accept this challenge and face this trial and write together the golden chapter of Pakistan's history. [applause]

Thank you. Pakistan Paindabad [long live]. [applause].

Qureshi Assures 'Smooth' Transfer

BK1810143193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has said the stage is now set for the smooth transfer of power to the elected representatives and assured his full cooperation in this regard. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad a short while ago.

[Begin Qureshi recording] I want to assure you that whoever is elected prime minister, and I hope that will be the case tomorrow, he or she will have my full support—not only my own support, but I can speak on the part of my colleagues in the cabinet. We shall do all we can to assist in the smooth transition.

What we have achieved, I think, is the first step towards the establishment of a free and fair democratic system starting with the elections. And, it is really a remarkable and proud achievement. We are all very proud of it and we think that it provides an excellent foundation now for going ahead and making sure that the functioning of the system in the future would be also equally strong and equally effective in a democratic sense. [end recording] 181400

Bhutto, 2 Federal Ministers Sworn In

BK1910112693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The cochairperson of Pakistan People's Party, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, was sworn in as the prime minister at an impressive ceremony at the Presidency in Islamabad a short while ago. The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, administered the oath. Later, Mr. Farooq Leghari and Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani were sworn in as federal ministers. With this, the process of transfer of power to the elected representatives at the federal level has been completed.

Those present on the occasion included the outgoing caretaker prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, and members of his cabinet; acting chairperson of the Senate, Dr. Noor Jahan Panezai; speaker of the National Assembly,

Mr. Yusuf Raza Gilani; parliamentarians; judges of the Supreme Court; services chiefs; members of the diplomatic corps; and senior civil and military officials.

Earlier, Ms. Benazir Bhutto was elected leader of the house at a special session of the National Assembly held in Islamabad for this purpose this morning. She polled 121 votes as against 72 secured by Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in the present strength of 205 of the National Assembly. Eight members belonging to Islami Jamhoori Mahaz, Pakistan Islamic Front, and National People's Party abstained from voting. Another two members were not present in the house today. When Speaker Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani announced the result, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's victory was greeted by the members with prolonged thumping of desks. She went to the seat of the leader of the house, while the chair of the leader of the opposition was occupied by Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. [passage omitted]

PPP Candidate Elected Sindh Assembly Speaker

BK1910091493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0900 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Ghaus Bux Mehar of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] was elected the new speaker of the Sindh Assembly today. Later he took the oath of the speaker. The election of the deputy speaker will also be held later today.

PPP Candidate Elected Punjab Assembly Speaker

BK1910101693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Mohammad Hanif Ramay of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] was elected speaker of the Punjab Assembly this afternoon. Ramay secured 130 votes against the 107 votes secured by his rival, Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khoso of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group. Later Hanif Ramay took oath of his office. Election of the deputy speaker in underway in the assembly.

Islamabad Ousts Four India Consulate Officials

BK1910092693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan has expelled four officials of the Indian Consulate General in Karachi. They are the consul, Mr. B.M. (Kuatra); the head of the chancery, Mr. Murari Lal; Mr. Narendar Singh; and Mr. Madan Dayal. Our Islamabad correspondent reports that the expulsion orders were issued yesterday apparently in retaliation of India's expulsion of four Pakistani diplomats in New Delhi and Bombay for indulging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status.

Qureshi—Nuclear Option 'Essential for Defense'

BK1810161493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has said that all arrangements have been made for the smooth transfer of power to the elected government. Addressing his last news conference in Islamabad along with his cabinet colleagues in Islamabad this evening, he said that his government achieved the first step toward the establishment of a free and fair democratic system by holding elections. He said this provides an excellent foundation for the functioning of this system in future in strong and effective manner.

Moin Qureshi said that his government's economic reforms have paved the way for a sustained economic growth. He said it is expected that this year the rise in prices and the the inflation rate will be lower than that of last year. He said he understands that the economic consolidation has now taken place. He said his government initiated changes and economic reforms that could bring about the further improvement in the situation. However, it is imperative that the elected government adhere to them. Moin Qureshi said the foreign exchange situation has also improved, and today the foreign exchange reserves are nearly twice as much as when his government assumed power.

The prime minister said there has been no change in the foreign policy. He said Pakistan's defense capability and the Kashmir issues are closely related to each other. He said Kashmir is a flashpoint in the region, and as a small country Pakistan is very concerned about its territorial integrity. Pakistan considers itself weaker in conventional military force compared to India. That is why the nuclear option is essential for the defense of Pakistan. The caretaker prime minister said Pakistan will always be willing to explore any avenue to reduce tension in the region, resolution of conflicts and nuclear nonproliferation.

The prime minister said Pakistan has been greatly affected by the Pressler Amendment, and we have made it clear to the United States that it is not only discriminatory but also against the U.S. policies themselves.

Answering a question about the CIA allegation in the U.S. Congress that Pakistan used the assistance of the World Bank and IMF for its nuclear program, Moin Qureshi said that this is a one-sided and biased thinking.

Answering another question, he said he will not be the presidential candidate because he has no political ambitions.

Communications Satellite System Open To Private Sector

BK1810055593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The government has decided to allow the private sector to set up a communications satellite [system]. Tenders will be called within the next 10 days. In an interview in Islamabad, the communications and railways secretary said a decision to this effect was made at a economic coordination committee meeting of the federal cabinet two days ago.

Qureshi Denies Receipt of Nawaz Autopsy Report

BK1810150693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Oct 18 (AFP)—Interim premier Moin Qureshi denied Monday that the government had received a report from three foreign doctors who made an autopsy on the body of former Pakistani army chief General Asif Nawaz.

Local daily The Nation said Monday the three experts had sent a report to the government saying they had found high levels of arsenic concentration in the body of the general, who died in January.

The newspaper report was "totally baseless," Qureshi told reporters.

Qureshi said an investigation into the cause of the general's death, attributed officially to a heart attack, was initiated on a complaint from his widow.

The body was exhumed and an autopsy carried out earlier this month by Sarel Waish from United States, John Clark of Britain and P. Lambart from France.[passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Tamil Leader Calls For Air Defense Capablity

BK1710130093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's minority Tamils should acquire an air defence capabilitity to counter the government's continued pursuit of a military solution to the island's ethnic conflict, a Tamil leader said Sunday.

"There is a need to hold some kind of a strategic balance unless and until we reach a durable political solution," Shankar Raji, leader of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisations, said here.

Raji said that due to "indiscriminate" aerial bombardment of the northern Jaffna peninsula, Tamils were thinking of acquiring an "air-defence capability" for the defence of the community, which is concentrated in the north and east.

His group was one of several Tamil militant groups that renounced violence under a 1987 bilateral pact between Sri Lanka and India.

But the group split after renewed fighting broke out in the northeast following failed peace talks, with a faction headed by V. Balakumar merging with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The LTTE is leading a violent campaign for independence in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million Tamils.

Tamil parties have said a recent military drive in the Jaffna peninsula proved the government was interested only in a military solution to the drawn-out ethnic conflict. Tamils allege discrimination by majority Sinhalese.

Tamil leaders and the LTTE have frequently alleged that air force strikes have killed large numbers of civilians during military operations against the LTTE. The rebels do not possess any aircraft nor an air defence system.

Government Forces Destroy Three LTTE Bases

BK1310115693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Troops of Operation Grand Slam have broken up a concentration of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] who were targeting villagers on the border of Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee Districts and have overrun three LTTE bases. A military spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that government troops had overrun and destroyed three large LTTE bases in and around Angroowelle. They said that the LTTE base at Angroowelle had 25 to 35 huts accomodating a total of 500 terrorists. Terrorists have fled as the troops reached the outer perimeter of the LTTE base. The military spokesman said that three of six terrorists [word indistinct] perched on tree tops were shot dead.

Meanwhile, a truck carrying a consignment of 10 lakh torch batteries, hacksaw blades, and ball bearings for the LTTE to manufacture war materials to use against security forces was seized and its crew arrested by soldiers manning the army's northern most check point at Tandikkulam in the Vavuniya District.

Central Bank Reports Signs of Inflation Decline

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[Text] Inflation shows signs of a decline. Although current prices are 12 percent higher than last year, the rate of inflation in the country slowed down in September. The Central Bank says that according to Colombo's consumer price index inflation has come down considerably. The main factor responsible for the decline in the index was the sharp decline of 2.2 percent in the food category of the index. The annual average price increase for September 1993 was lower than the annual average price increase in August.

Footwear Among Leading Foreign Exchange Earners

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[Text] Footwear made in Sri Lanka is becoming popular in international markets. Footwear exports have now become one of the leading foreign exchange earner.

According to Export Development Board [EDB] sources, it will reach the 1,000 million rupee mark this year.

At the recently-concluded International Shoe Fair in (?Dagluda) of Germany, six exporters dealing in all types of footwear took part for the first time, and they were able to secure direct orders worth around 50 million rupees. They have also negotiated orders for over 100 million rupees. An EDB official told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that several foreign importers, mainly from the European countries, are now in Sri Lanka visiting the shoe factories to confirm their negotiated orders for all types of footwear made at the German Shoe Fair. The official added that Sri Lanka is proud to export to some quality conscious markets such as the USA, Italy, United Kingdom, France, and the Netherlands.

Killing of Indian Fishermen Under Investigation

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[Text] COLOMBO, Oct 13 (AFP)—Sri Lanka was investigating India's complaint that the navy killed four Indian fishermen off the island's northern coast last week, officials said Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed told Indian High Commisioner (ambassador) Nareshwar Dayal that he had ordered an "immediate investigation" and was awaiting a report, an official statement said.

Hameed told Dayal at a meeting Tuesday that the Sri Lankan navy was performing its duties under "great stress" because of security threats posed by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

It was his view that the navy would not have "deliberately shot at any Indian fishermen," the statement said.

The meeting was also attended by Defence Secretary, Hamilton Wanasinghe and navy commander Mohan Samarasekera.

Dayal on Sunday strongly protested to Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna over the incident which he said occured on October 8 north of the islet of Kachchativu. The military here said it was not aware of the attack.

The affair came just three weeks after Sri Lanka revoked an emergency law banning fishing in its northern territorial waters following protests from New Delhi.

The ban was first imposed on September 3 after a LTTE suicide attack that sank a navy gunboat off the northern coast, leaving 12 sailors dead. The LTTE is fighting for an independent state in the island's northeast.